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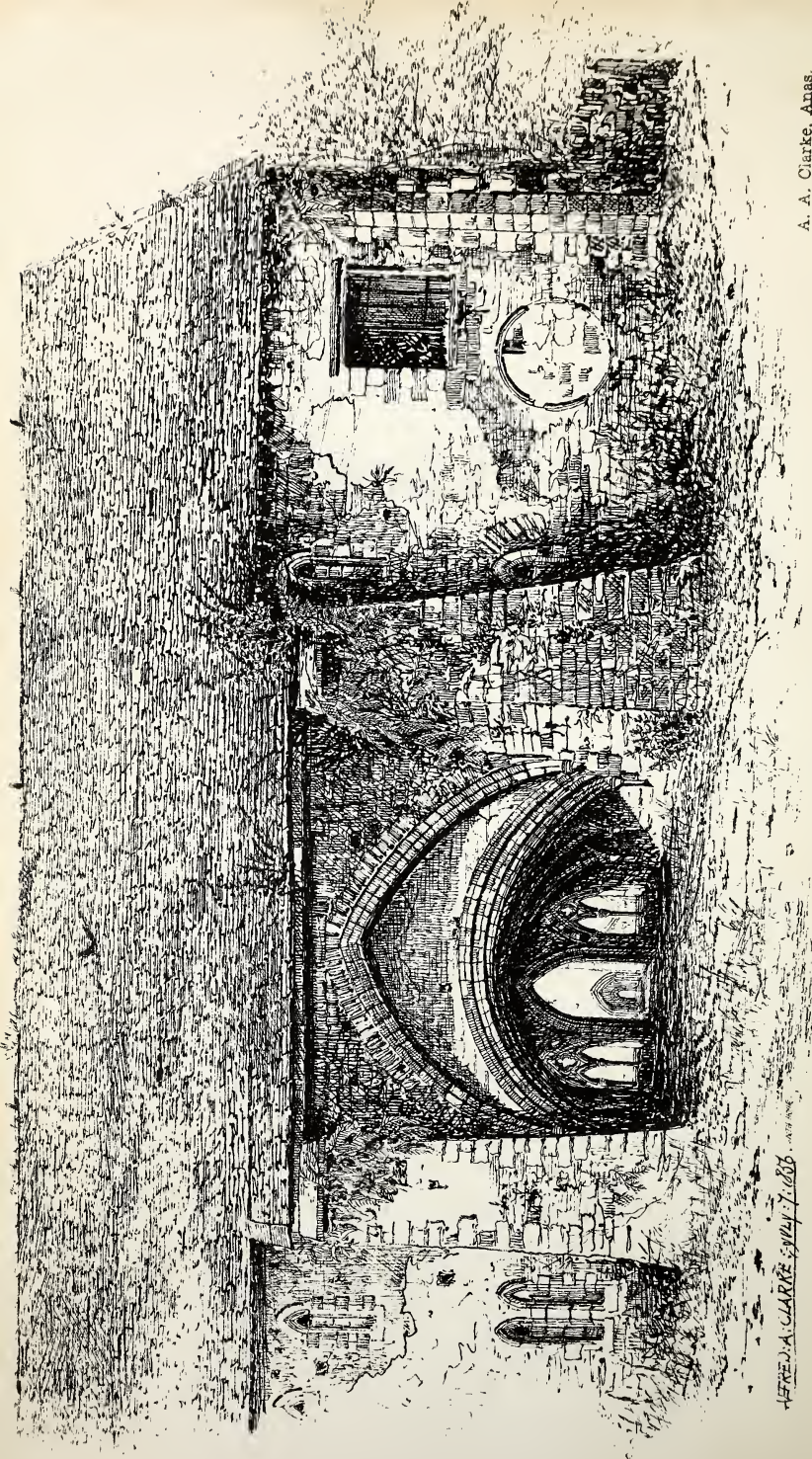
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THE REMAINS OF THE CHAPTER HOUSE, OLD CLEEVE ABBEY.

Somersetshire Archæological

and

Natural History Society.

Proceedings

DURING THE YEAR 1855.

VOL. VI.

TAUNTON :
FREDERICK MAY, HIGH - STREET.
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THE Society is indebted to the Rev. THOMAS HUGO for the Engravings of the Common Seal of Cleeve Abbey (hitherto unpublished), and of the Seal of David Juynier, Abbot of Cleeve, given in the present volume ; and likewise to Mr. C. E. GILES for the original sketches (taken specially for the Proceedings) of the Refectory and supposed Ancient Refectory, Cleeve Abbey ; also, of the Interior and Exterior views of Dunster Church.

CORRIGENDA.

The Charters and other Archives of Cleve Abbey. Part II.

<i>Page</i> 18, <i>line</i> 13, <i>for</i> annals	<i>read</i> annals ?
„ 19, „ 19, „ crotchets	„ crockets
„ 20, „ 24, „ nyneth	„ nyenth
„ 29, „ 25, „ 1228	„ 1229
„ 30, „ 18, „ 1226	„ 1227
„ 32, „ 3, „ he'du'	„ h'edu'
„ 34, „ 5, „ suit	„ sint
„ „ 7, „ sine	„ siue
„ „ 22, „ firmit'r	„ firmit'
„ 37, „ 29, „ he'dib	„ h'edib'
„ 38, „ 3, „ he'des	„ h'edes
„ „ 4, „ ant	„ aut
„ „ 16, „ he'dib'	„ h'edib'
„ „ 20, „ q'm	„ qam
„ 39, „ 8, „ he'dib'	„ h'edib'
„ „ 16, „ he'dum	„ h'edum
„ 42, „ 21, „ duratur' tenend'	„ duratur', tenend'
„ „ 31, „ duratur' tenend'	„ duratur', tenend'
„ 44, „ 19, „ of the reverence	„ of reverence
„ 50, „ 5, „ Regni'	„ Regni
<i>Page</i> 66, <i>note, line</i> 1, „ these letters, which were	<i>read</i> letter D, which was
2, „ by whom they were	„ by whom it was

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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
DURING THE YEAR 1855.

PART I.

THE Seventh Annual Meeting of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society was held at Dunster on Tuesday, August 21, 1855,—the President, Sir W. C. TREVELYAN, Bart., in the chair.

The meeting for business commenced at eleven o'clock, when the President, the Vice-Presidents, the general and local Secretaries, were severally re-appointed. Captain Perceval was elected local Secretary for Blue Anchor; F. W. Newton, Esq., Rev. W. T. Redfern, Rev. W. Routledge, D.D., Rev. T. A. Voules, were re-elected; and Rev. J. P. Scott, and Edwards Beadon, Esq., were elected members of the Committee.

The PRESIDENT, in his opening address, expressed the great pleasure he felt in taking part in the proceedings of the Society. He regretted that, in consequence of his residing at a distance, he had not been able to do so oftener. He took a deep interest in the prosperity of the Society, and in the objects it embraced, and was glad to find by the journals published that the Society had already done much to advance the Archæology and Natural History of the county. He particularly adverted to the

recent important discovery at Taunton, at the depth of many feet, of the remains of a rhinoceros, in connection with the trees of the forest, comprising alder, oak, hazel, and other existing species—thus showing that the climate of this country, when inhabited by this race of animals, was much the same as it is at the present day. He also referred to the value and interest which attached to the collection in the library of the Society—of books relating to the county; and when the books themselves could not be obtained, it was very desirable to have their titles in full. This object would be attained by the *Bibliotheca Somersetensis*, to which he was glad to find the Committee were directing their attention. The President then referred to the iron ore found in the neighbourhood at Treborough, which is equal to the best Silesian iron in quality, and is found in deeper and richer veins. This discovery is of great importance not only to this locality, but to the nation at large. The great value of microscopic investigation was alluded to, especially towards determining the fertilizing properties of streams, by discovering the extent to which Desmidiæ and Diatomaceæ are found in the water.

The Rev. F. WARRE, Secretary to the Society, then read the following Report of the Committee:—

“In presenting their Seventh Annual Report, your Committee have the gratification of being able again to announce that the Society is progressing in members and influence.

“Since the last general meeting, nearly 30 new members have been added to its list; and though the total bears as yet but a small proportion to the number of influential names belonging to the county of Somerset, yet it may be reasonably expected that with the growing taste for such

inquiries as those, which the Society was embodied in order to prosecute, and which, to be successfully conducted, require at once widely-spread exertions and united efforts; and with the more extended knowledge of what the Society has already accomplished, the many interesting parts it has been enabled to record, and the light it has thrown on the darker eras of our history—with these, it may be reasonably expected that each succeeding year will present a goodly addition to its subscribing members, and thus render it more efficient, and better adapted to the requirements of our extensive county; for in prosecuting archæological and other scientific inquiries, it is unfortunately as true as in most other cases, that independently of all the zeal and talent which may be exerted, it is money which constitutes the sinews.

“For further justification of these hopes, the Committee refer to the estimate which appears to have been formed of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society beyond the limits of the county. Thus exchanges of publications have been agreed upon between this Society and the Archæological Institute of Great Britain; the Ecclesiological Society; the British Archæological Association; the Sussex Archæological Society; the Bristol and West of England Architectural Society; the Architectural Society of Northampton; the Surrey Archæological Society; and the Société Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles at Lausanne.

“Your Committee feel that they may regard in the same view the handsome donations which still continue to be made to the museum, and the valuable deposits confided during the last year to the care of the Curator. Among these will be found curious and interesting pamphlets of ancient date; valuable works of reference; fossils from

the important district of Dudley; Devonian limestones with corals; stalactites from the Holwell Cave, and from the Mammoth Cave, Kentucky; fossil madrepores; specimens of ore containing silver and copper, from Ashburton; casts of ancient British coins; silver Roman coins; geological and other maps; cases of birds from the Himalaya and Demerara; shells from the Black Sea, and numerous other important additions to the Society's museum, many of which are already recorded in the last publication of the Society. A complete list of the remainder, with the names of the donors or depositors, will appear in the next annual volume.

"A sub-committee has been appointed to classify these and previous donations and deposits, and to draw up a catalogue for the convenience of the members and visitors.

"Your Society has sustained a severe loss in the death of one of their Vice-Presidents, Andrew Crosse, Esq., who took so lively an interest in the well-being of the Society, and whose scientific zeal and attainments reflected so much lustre on this his native county.

"The annual volume has been issued to those members who are entitled according to the rules to receive it—namely, those who have paid up their subscriptions; and it is hoped that this volume will not be deemed in any way inferior, either as to the matter it contains or the execution of the illustrations, to those which have preceded.

"An opportunity having occurred of purchasing some valuable casts of sculptures from Wells Cathedral—of the originals of which Flaxman says, 'It seems to be the earliest specimen of such magnificent and varied sculpture united in a series of sacred history that is to be found in western Europe'—the Committee have availed themselves of it; but at the same time must appeal to the

The Rev. W. ARTHUR JONES, one of the Secretaries, read the following Notice of Remains of Ancient British Hut-circles on Croydon Hill :—

“I beg to call the attention of the Society to the remains of an ancient British village which I think I have discovered in this neighbourhood. I was led to examine this district from seeing, in Savage’s *Carhampton* that on the Croydon Hills there were two Druidic circles. When I came to the spot indicated I could find no trace whatever of the tall upright stones invariably marking the site of sacred enclosures ; nor could I learn from any of the oldest inhabitants that stones of that description ever existed there. I had almost given up the search—concluding that the Druidic circle, if it ever existed, was now utterly destroyed—when I came upon the remains (almost entirely covered with the fern brake) which had given rise to the representations of Savage. But, instead of being a Druidic circle, it proved, considering the circumstances, a remarkably well-defined collection of hut circles.

“This ancient British settlement (as I take it) lies on the south-western declivity of the hill above Withycombe, under the eminence called the Fire-beacon, and close to the cottage known as Higher Dumbledeer. The outline of several of the cabin-circles is perfect ; that of others is more or less obliterated ; and I ascertained from some of the inhabitants that a great quantity of the stones had been used to drain the adjoining fields. The aspect and position of this village corresponds most fully with those in which the ancient British villages are found on the Dartmoor. It stands on a gentle slope, looking towards the south-west, and sheltered by the hill behind from the cold winds of the north and north-east. Close by there is a spring of running water at Higher Dumbledeer ; and a little lower,

in a deep ravine, flows the crystal stream which works the mills at Withycombe. While the spot selected was retired, yet the inhabitants enjoyed a fine open prospect over the rich plains which separate the Brendon from the Quantock Hills.

“Although many hut-circles were made exclusively of earth, yet it is found that *stone* was used in their construction wherever it was abundant. This was the case here. But while the lower part of the cabins was built of stone, the upper parts were constructed of more perishable materials—of wood, or wattling, covered with turf or thatch. Judging from the allusions to British huts in Diodorus Siculus, and likewise from the illustrations of them given on the Antonine Column, the circular forms which now alone remain would seem to have been the base or foundations of dwellings of the description already referred to, with tapering roofs, and a hole at top for the escape of smoke. In accordance with the plan on which these settlements appear to have been constructed, the huts in this case were built side by side, in the circumference of a large circle. From the measurements I was able to take of the more perfect, the huts themselves would seem to have been about 21ft. in diameter, and the large circle, including the whole settlement, about 160ft., which would give a circumference of about 480ft.

“I hope that during this meeting the spot to which I refer may be visited by the Society, in order to determine whether these circles are what they appear to be. It is not prudent to delay the investigation, for agricultural improvement is rapidly spreading ; enclosures are climbing up the valleys and along the slopes of the hills—so that before many years these remains of our Celtic ancestors will exist only in the records of antiquarian societies.”

The Rev. THOMAS HUGO, On the Charters and other Archives of Cleeve Abbey, given in Part II.

At the close of Mr. Hugo's paper, much valuable information relating to Cleeve Abbey, was elicited by a conversation in which Mr. WARDEN and other gentlemen took part.

The meeting was then adjourned, and the company visited the Church and the Castle, under the able guidance of the Secretary, the Rev. F. Warre. Afterwards a large party explored the fine encampments in the Park.

At five o'clock there was an ORDINARY at the Luttrell Arms Hotel, which was numerously attended.

The Evening Meeting.

Soon after seven o'clock the meeting was resumed.

The PRESIDENT opened the proceedings by reading several interesting family letters, written during the time of the Commonwealth, and a curious passport to enable Mrs. Luttrell to cross over from Watchet into Wales. These form part of a series shortly to be published, from the treasures of Nettlecombe Court, and, consequently, do not appear in our Proceedings.

The Rev. WM. ARTHUR JONES then read a paper On the Geological Formations in the neighbourhood of Dunster, given in Part II.

Mr. C. MOORE, F.G.S., gave an interesting account of some further discoveries made by him in the Oolite in the neighbourhood of Dundry and Bath.

This was followed by a paper by Miss ISABELLA GIFFORD, On the rare and most remarkable Plants in the

neighbourhoods of Dunster, Blue Anchor, Minchad, &c., given in Part II.

The announcement of the discovery of *Asplenium Septentrionale* in Somersetshire, gave rise to an animated discussion, in which the Rev. THOMAS HUGO, Dr. WOODFORDE, and others, took part.

The following papers were presented, but not read, owing to the absence of the writers, and are given in Part II. :—

On the traces of Camps and Ancient Earth-works still existing around Bath, by the Rev. H. M. SCARTH.

On the Painted Glass in Wells Cathedral, by Mr. GREVILLE J. CHESTER.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday, August 22nd, 1856.

The Excursion.

A LARGE party assembled at Dunster, and proceeded thence, some to the Church at Carhampton, Old Cleeve and Chapel Cleeve ; others to geologize on the coast from Blue Anchor to Watchet. The outlines of the encampment, known as Daw's Castle, having been inspected, the party assembled at Watchet, going thence to St. Decuman's Church, and on to Battle Gore, close to Williton, to see the tumuli, and the undoubted remains of a British *Cromlech*. The three stones are there ; the two upright stones (now lying prostrate) are about 10 feet long.

At Williton the company found luncheon provided for them by the liberality of Sir W. C. Trevelyan, who expressed his regret, that having no establishment at Nettle-

combe, he was unable to entertain them there as he wished. The Hon. P. P. Bouverie having acknowledged the kind hospitality of the President, the party proceeded to Old Cleeve Abbey, where, under the far-spreading branches of a magnificent sycamore tree, the Rev. F. WARRE read a paper On Old Cleeve Abbey, given in Part II.

After a minute examination of the remains of the Abbey, under the guidance of Mr. Warre, although the day was now far spent, a large party climbed the steep hill above Withycombe, to explore the supposed site of a British village. The Rev. Mr. Warre, who has explored so many of these remains, expressed his strong conviction that it was what Mr. Jones had suggested. Excavations were commenced, but, in consequence of the darkness, they were abandoned before any remains confirmatory of the hypothesis could be discovered. About half-way up this hill attention was directed to a natural section in the lane, showing very clearly the conjunction of the red sand-stone with the Devonian series, referred to in the paper on the geology of the neighbourhood.

THIRD DAY.

Thursday, August 23rd, 1856.

The Meeting was resumed at Dunster, when two very ancient MSS. relating to the county were exhibited by Sir Thos. Phillipps, Bart., of Middle Hill, Worcester; these contained a terrarium of Bath and a cartularium of Glastonbury. The excursion this day embraced Marsh Farm, with its *oratory* over the porch, presenting in its interior many interesting architectural features; Minehead Church, Bratton Court, the picturesque village of Selworthy, and the Church. Here the parish chest was

explored, and a curious proclamation of King James I. brought to light, maintaining the doctrine of the Divine Right of Kings. From hence the party proceeded through Lynch, examining the most westerly portion of the lias which occurs here, to Porlock Church, and on to the residence of Lord Lovelace, the house and grounds having been thrown open by his Lordship's order. Some of the party lingered for a time in these delightful grounds, while others hurried on to Culbone Church.

In the evening the whole party assembled at the residence of the Rev. T. Richards, at Alcombe, by whom they were hospitably entertained. A communication was read by Sir Thos. Phillipps, on the name of *Aluric Vaccarius*, which occurs in the Pipe-roll of 20 Hen. II., and which Sir Thomas suggested, had its origin in the grant probably made by Alfred to the *cowherd* (Vaccarius) at Athelney.

After a vote of thanks to the President and the Secretaries, the proceedings of the annual meeting were formally closed.

THE FOLLOWING WERE EXHIBITED AT THE

Temporary Museum,

AND PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY.

A SERIES of microscopic shells, of the orders Foramifera and Brachiopoda; highly magnified illustrations of the same.—MR. C. MOORE, F.G.S.

A collection of specimens of rock and ores of Grabhurst, Alcombe Common, North Hill, Dunkery, &c.—

REV. T. M. RICHARDS.

Specimens of slate from the Treborough Slate Quarry, on the Nettlecombe estate; specimens of the red and

white iron ores taken from a mine on Brendon Hill, on the Nettlecombe estate.*—Sir W. C. TREVELYAN, Bart.

DEPOSITED.

A silver chasing, date A.D. 1530, by Cellini; head of the Virgin, limosin enamel, 1515; and the old corporate seal of the Boro' of Stoke de Courci (Stogursey).—

J. H. PAYNE, Esq.

An upper stone of a hand-mill found in the parish of Minehead—it formed the cover of a small enclosed space containing a vase, the contents of which were removed; copper ore from Alcombe, with electrotpe made from it; fragments of ancient pottery and scorix found in the coal-barrow near the mouth of the Haven, or Hawn, Dunster; a most beautiful specimen of arragonite, found in a limestone quarry at Stowey, in the parish of Cutcombe.—

T. ABRAHAM, Esq.

Fossil wood found on the beach at Watchet; and the jaws of Ichthyosaurus.—J. W. WILLIAMS, Esq.

Portion of a glass vessel from Cleeve Abbey, and Roman British Pottery.—Capt. PERCEVAL.

Head of Ichthyosaurus tenuirostris, found at Blue Anchor.—W. BLAKE, Esq.

Portions of decayed trees, and leaf mould, from the submarine forest near Minehead.—Rev. T. M. RICHARDS.

A collection of marine algæ, ferns, and other plants.—

Miss GIFFORD.

A two-looped celt, found near Cork in 1854, considered very rare.—Rev. THOMAS HUGO.

Pen and ink sketches of the churches in the neighbourhood, drawn and deposited by E. A. FREEMAN, Esq.

* This mine is now worked to a depth of 140 feet, from which depth the ores presented were raised.

A portfolio of sketches of mediæval remains in Somersetshire and Cornwall ; and water-colour paintings of St. German's Priory Church, Old Cleeve Abbey gate-house, Crewkerne Monastery ; and views of Watchet, Minehead, and Holnicote Mills.—Mr. A. A. CLARKE.

A list of turf-moor plants from the moors of Somersetshire.—T. CLARK, Esq., Bridgwater.

The Museum.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED AS LOANS.

Two heads of deer, from Cashmere.—Capt. ABBOT.

Specimen of lead ore, with quartz, from Dyfnwgwm mine, N. Wales.—H. D. KING, Esq.

Five pieces of carving, including the Canterbury Pilgrimage, exhibited at the Crystal Palace in 1851.—

Mr. HALLIDAY.

Large earthen vessel found at Staplegrove, about three feet from the surface.—A. TURNER, Esq.

Report on Somersetshire Charities, Commutation of Tithes, Report of Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Report on Church Revenues, and Maps of Europe.—

Rev. W. PHELPS.

Model of human figure in ivory.—Mr. J. C. BAKER.

Pottery, horns, and copper bolt, from the clay pits near Bridgwater, belonging to the collection of the late Mr. W. BAKER.

PURCHASED BY THE SOCIETY.

The Palæontographical Society's Journal for 1855.

The Archæological Society's Journal for 1855.

A collection of Casts from the Sculptures in Wells Cathedral:—

Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4. Four subjects, forming the capital

of one of the large pillars in the south transept. No. 1 shews two figures in the act of stealing some kind of fruit; No. 2 also contains two figures (one armed with a fork, the other with an axe), who seem to be stealthily coming on the two thieves; No. 3 contains two figures, in which the figure armed with the fork has seized one of the thieves by the ear, and is about to thrust the fork into his head; in No. 4 the thief is supposed to be in custody, in an uneasy crouching posture, over whom the figure with the fork is standing, his hat fallen over his shoulder, apparently threatening the thief with a heavy blow, in the event of his attempting to move.

No. 5. A shoe-maker at work. The "strap" is seen over the shoe on the knee of the figure, and passed under the foot.

No. 6. Represents a female, exhibiting the appearance of great pain, in the act of extracting a thorn from her foot.

No. 7. A curiously grotesque figure, having only one eye, and with distorted countenance, as if suffering from the tooth-ache.

No. 8. A grotesque figure of a lion, in the act of seizing a man, who is armed with a kind of axe.*

No. 9. A grotesque and curious figure, apparently of the monkey tribe, in an uneasy posture, seemingly sustaining a heavy weight on its back.

No. 10. The figure of a man, bearing on his shoulder a sort of box, and on his arm is seen a string of beads.

No. 11. A fox with a goose in its jaws, and behind, a man holding a crooked rod.

No. 12. The figure of a man bearing the branch of some plant thrown over his shoulder.

* Nos. 8 to 14 are from the north aisle of the nave.

No. 13. Another figure with a small animal slung over his shoulder, and holding something in his hand.

No. 14. A female figure carrying some animal, apparently a hare, on her shoulder, and leading a goat.

No. 15. A venerable bearded figure of Moses, with the "two tables of stone," on which is engraved "**Lege Dei.**" This is from the north transept.

No. 16. A beautiful bracket or corbel, in which the figure of a lizard is elegantly carved. This is from the north transept.

Nos. 17 and 18. Two pedestals, from the east end of the choir, over the altar.

Nos. 19 and 20. The Annunciation of the Virgin, and an emblematical representation of the Deity; both from panels on the elegant alabaster tomb of Dean Henry Hussee, who died A.D. 1305.

No. 21. A head, from the tomb of William de Marchia (A.D. 1302) inserted over the head of the recumbent statue of the bishop.

No. 22. Two mutilated figures of angels, and the figure of a headless bishop between, all gracefully draped; from the wall under the canopy at the back of Bishop Marchia's tomb.

No. 23. A small figure of a female, in a crouching position, from the tomb of Bishop Beckington.

No. 24. From the groined roof of the western cloister, and represents the curious rebus and initial of Bishop Beckington, who died A.D. 1465. The rebus is a flaming becon on a tun, or cask "beacon-tun," in allusion to the bishop's name, Beckington.

Nos. 25, 26, 27 and 28. Four demi-angels, each holding a shield; from the chantry chapel of Hugh Sugar, LL.D., who was one of Bishop Beckington's executors. One

shield is charged with three sugar-loaves, surmounted by a doctor's cap, in allusion to the founder's name ; another with the initials H. S. in a cypher ; another with a cross and the Virgin and Child ; and the fourth with the lily, emblematical of the annunciation.

No. 29. The statue of Athelstan. He is distinguished by a large brooch on the breast, and by this the statue is clearly identified—the name “Athelstan” meaning, literally, the “gem” or “precious stone.” The statue occupies one of the most prominent positions in the “temporal” or north side of the west front, viz., in the second great buttress from the north-east corner of the front. The figure is 8ft. 4in. high, and, although somewhat stiff and ungraceful in appearance, yet it forms an admirable specimen of English art of the early period at which it was executed.

No. 30. The bust of Otho, son of Henry, Emperor of Germany.

No. 31. A bust of “Ina,” King of the West Saxons. This statue is placed nearly over the central door, on the south or “spiritual” side, the corresponding niche on the opposite or “temporal” side being occupied by his Queen Ethelburga.

No. 32. A bust of King Ethelbert, wearing a crown.

No. 33. A bust of Ethelred.

No. 34. Edward, martyr.

No. 35. Bust of King William Rufus.

No. 36. From the north side of the north-western tower, the subject is “The Last Supper,” and consists of nine figures, described by Mr. Cockerell thus : “John reposes in the bosom of the Saviour ; in front is a page kneeling on one knee, as constantly seen in the festive scenes of the middle ages.”

No. 37. Christ among the Doctors, consists of ten figures.

Nos. 38 and 39. Two statues from the eastern side of the chain gate, built by Bishop Beckington.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1855.

History of England, 2 vols, 1732, folio.—

W. E. GILLETT, Esq.

Two wasps' nests.—Rev. O. S. HARRISON.

Two pieces of hand-mill, or quern, from Kew-steps.—

Rev. F. WARRE.

Specimen of fossil wood from the Island of Portland, and sheet of metallic oxydes, struck by electricity by the late Andrew Crosse.—Mrs. ANDREW CROSSE.

Two specimens of antique carving.—

W. E. SURTEES, Esq.

Specimen of *Ostræa*.—W. M. KELLY, Esq., M.D.

Five photographic delineations of architectural antiquities of Somerset.—B. J. M. DONNE, Esq.

Ecclesiastical documents, Camden Society, containing a History of the Bishoprick of Somerset.—

JAMES YATES, Esq., F.R.S.

Specimens of polished madrepores.—

Mrs. WARREN, and Mrs. CECIL SMITH.

Specimen of Travertine, from Pickeridge.—

Rev. H. STRETCH.

Stuffed badger.—Mr. W. FISHER.

Collection of shells from the Black Sea.—Capt. ELLIOT.

Two casts of ancient British coins, and part of Roman chariot-wheel, found at Hamdon Hill.—R. WALTER, Esq.

Churchwardens' account of Parish of St. Mary's, Taunton, 1672, 1673.—Mr. A. C. COX.

Monkland's Literature and Literati of Bath, and Supplement to ditto.—W. E. SURTEES, Esq.

Rotuli Hundredorum ; Nonarum Inquisitiones ; Inquisitiones post Mortem, 4 vols. ; Valor Ecclesiasticus, vol. 5 ; Parliamentary Writs ; Abstract of Poor Returns ; Gordon's Tacitus ; Register of Voters ; Municipal Corporations ; Local Taxation ; County Rates ; Parliamentary Papers—8 vols. ; Report of the Orders of Council on Education ; and collection of Railway Prospectuses.—

Rev. W. PHELPS.

Parts of mummy.—Mr. W. S. LINCOLN.

Specimens of iron ore and fossil ferns.—

C. WINDLE, Esq.

Conversazione Meetings.

5th Season.

AT the Conversazione Meetings of the Society held at the Museum, in Taunton, during the winter of 1854-55, Papers on the following subjects were read :—

1854, *November,—1st Meeting.*

On Heraldry ; by Mr. J. F. Y. Mogg.*

On a Newly-discovered Roman Villa at Wadeford ;
by Mr. R. Walter.

On Monumental Effigies in Tickenham Church,
near Clevedon ; by Mr. H. G. Tomkins.

„ *December,—2nd Meeting.*

Observations on a Tour through North America ;
by Mr. W. E. Surtees.

On Cephalopodes, recent and fossil, illustrative of
objects in the Society's Museum ; by the Rev.
W. A. Jones.

1855, *January,—3rd Meeting.*

On the Life and Times of Roger Bacon ; by Mr.
Edmund Batten.

On the Luminosity of the Sea ; by W. Metford,
M.D.

On some Recent Discoveries of Roman Remains
in the neighbourhood of Bath ; by the Rev. H.
M. Scarth.

„ *March,—4th Meeting.*

On the Waters of the neighbourhood of Taunton ;
by Mr. W. Price Jones.

On the Baptism of Guthorm, King of the Danes,
at Aller ; by Mr. T. S. Baynes, LL.B.

* This has since been published in a separate form, by Mr. May, Taunton.

The following Publications have been received during the year 1855, in exchange for the Proceedings of the Society :—

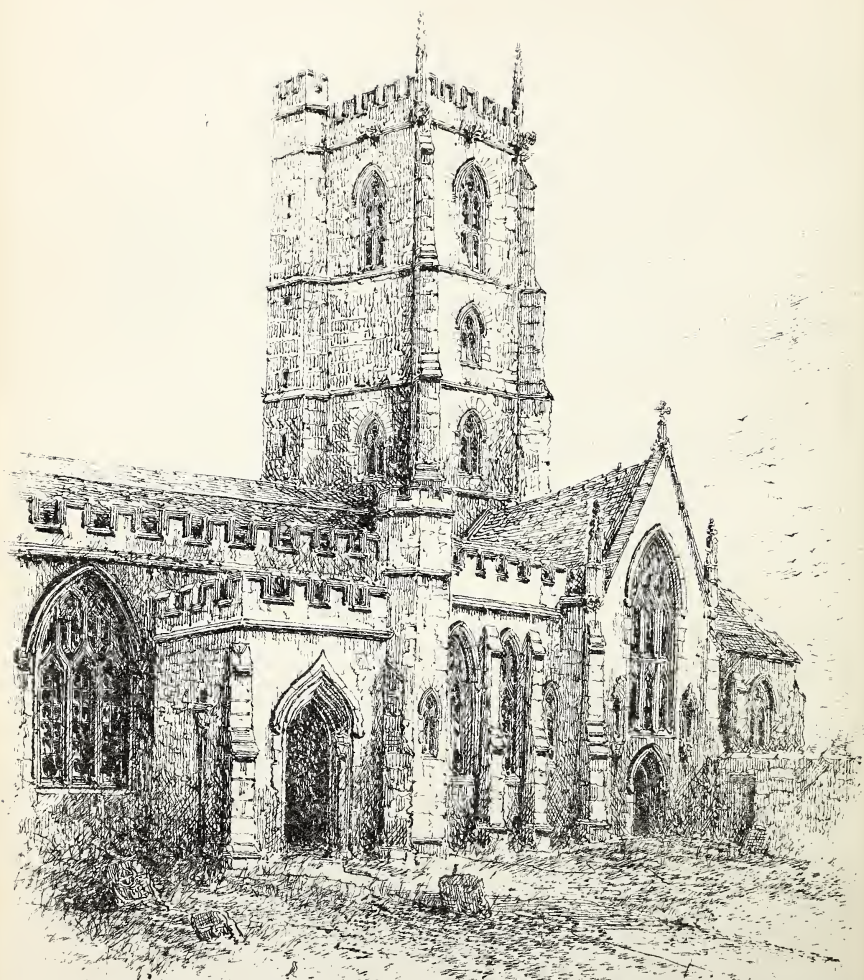
Journals of the British Archæological Association, January, March, June, September, and December, 1855.

Journals of the Kilkenny and South-east of Ireland Archæological Society, vol. 2, parts 1 and 2 ; vol. 3, part 2, and for January, March, May, July, September, and November, 1855.

History of Kent, by Mr. Dunkin.

Transactions of the Leicester Literary Philosophical Society, for 1855.

Reports, etc., of the Northampton Architectural Society, for 1854.



C. F. GILES ARCHT. DRA.

AFRIDA. CLARKE

DUNSTER: CHURCH: SOMERSETSHIRE:—

FROM THE SOUTH WEST.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
1855, PART II.

PAPERS, ETC.

Dunster Priory Church.

BY EDWARD A. FREEMAN, M.A.

AMONG the various papers which I have now, for some years past, annually communicated to the Somersetshire Archæological Society, there has not yet been any which has at all closely approached to the nature of a monograph. I have generally dealt rather with groups of churches, and with the characteristics of whole districts, than with detailed examinations of individual buildings. But the place of your present meeting seems to suggest a different course on the present occasion. The Priory Church of Dunster, though, as a work of architecture, immeasurably inferior to the glorious structures on which I have commented upon in other parts of the county, has nevertheless, for the ecclesiastical antiquary, an interest of a peculiar kind, and for myself more particularly so, as its more remarkable features throw

great light on an important question to which I have for a long while devoted special attention.

The subject to which I allude is that of the architectural distinction between merely parochial churches and those which were conventual or collegiate, and especially of the peculiarities of those churches in which both purposes were united. This is a subject which I have often treated elsewhere, though I do not think that I have ever before been called upon to bring it at any length before my present audience. The general question I dealt with some time ago in a paper read before the Oxford Society, which was afterwards printed in the *Builder*. I have also followed it up in detail in my *History of Llandaff Cathedral*, and in various monographs and other papers in the *Archæological Journal*, the *Ecclesiologist*, and in the excellent publication of your sister Association north of the Bristol Channel, the *Archæologia Cambrensis*. Any of you who may remember what I have said elsewhere of Llandaff, Monkton, Brecon, Chepstow, Ruthin, Leominster, Dorchester, and Malmesbury, will recognize what I have to say about Dunster, as naturally forming part of the same series. To others, I presume that a general recapitulation of the whole subject may not be unacceptable.

The monastic and the larger collegiate churches of England may be divided into two great classes, those which were simply and wholly designed for the use of the monastic or collegiate fraternity, and those which at the same time discharged the functions of ordinary parish churches. In the generality of these latter cases, the eastern part, or the choir, belonged to the monks ; the western part, or the nave, to the people. In fact, they often formed, to all intents and purposes, two distinct churches, and the two parts were often spoken of distinctly as “ the parish

church," and "the abbey" or "priory church." There was often a complete barrier between the two, and the people had what may be called their own high altar, at the east end of the nave. Now at the dissolution of monasteries, the fate of these buildings was different from that of those churches which were wholly monastic. The latter, having been the exclusive property of the monks, became the exclusive property of the King and his grantees, and the entire building was preserved, destroyed, or dismantled at their pleasure. Such were Glastonbury, Tintern, Netley, Llanthony, and generally the famous ruined abbeys throughout the country. But when only part of a church belonged to the monks, and part to the parish, the Dissolution in no way interfered with the latter. Hence it is that we find so many grand churches imperfect ; the nave, as being the parish church, was left standing, while the eastern portion, which belonged to the monks or canons, was alienated by the Dissolution, and was commonly pulled down or left ruinous. This we see at Malmesbury, Waltham, Leominster, Fotheringhay, Usk, Chepstow, Ruthin, Deerhurst, and many others.* In some instances the monastic portion has been added to the parish church, as at Tewkesbury, where it was originally destined to destruction, but was purchased of the King by the parishioners ; and at Dorchester, where it was the gift of an

* I could prolong this list indefinitely. But there is an exceptional class of half-preserved churches, for which I cannot so well account, where the choir is preserved as the parish church, the nave being destroyed. This is the case with Great St. Bartholomew's in London, Pershore, Worcestershire, Boxgrove and New Shoreham, Sussex, and, I may add, Bristol Cathedral. In connexion with the two Sussex examples, it is worth noting that at Winchelsea the Friary has the nave totally destroyed, while the choir exists, though in ruins, and that the old Guildhall at Chichester is a desecrated choir, whose nave is destroyed. Winchelsea parish church, and Merton Chapel, Oxford, are unfinished ; at Hexham, I believe, the nave was destroyed in the Scottish wars, and never rebuilt.

individual benefactor. At Monkton, in Pembrokeshire, and at Howden, the eastern portion remains, but roofless ; at Arundel, at Ewenny in Glamorganshire, and at Dunster, it remains, and retains its roof, but is otherwise in a condition than which a well-preserved ruin is incomparably less offensive.

The general effect of Dunster church I have alluded to more than once in other papers. It is a long, low, irregular cruciform building, with its external architecture wholly Perpendicular, of a plain and in no way striking kind. Even externally its very peculiar arrangement suggests itself. East of the central tower, on whose character I commented some years back, is evidently the choir, or monastic church ; west of it stretches a nave of unusual length. Now, at some little distance west of the tower, you will see one of those side-turrets which are the never-failing sign of a grand Somersetshire roodscreen, stretching across the whole width of the church, both nave and aisles. On entering, you find the transept and the whole space east of the tower cut off and disused ; the altar is under the western arch of the tower ; and some way to the west, as was suggested by the external turret, one of the noblest roodlofts in Somersetshire stretches across both nave and aisles. That this is no modern arrangement is proved both by the turret and by the general proportion and arrangement of the whole. The fact is that Dunster church comprises, in every sense, two churches. The priory church, east of the tower, remains disused, having been most probably spared from entire destruction on account of the monuments which it contains. The parish church remains, bating pews and such like, just as it was—a distinct church, west of the tower, so thoroughly distinct as to have not only its own altar, but its own clearly-marked

choir, fenced off by its own very goodly roodscreen. Nor is this separate parish church, taken alone, a building of very insignificant extent. I roughly estimated its whole length at 101 feet, 67 to the nave, and 34 to the chancel. The lantern I reckoned at about 21, and the choir of the monks at 59, making the entire dimensions of the whole building about 180 feet, or a little more than the length of St. Asaph, the smallest English cathedral.

This secondary choir, so distinctly marked within the parochial part of the church, I do not remember to have seen elsewhere, and it is fortunate that we have an authentic record of the date and cause of its introduction at Dunster. It appears from documents quoted in Collinson's Somersetshire, that in 1499 a dispute raged in Dunster between the Prior and his monks on the one hand, and the Vicar and his parishioners on the other, touching their respective rights in the church which served both for the monastery and the parish. The matter was referred to the then Abbot of Glastonbury and two other arbitrators, who gave judgment that the Vicar and his flock should leave the monks' choir wholly to the monks themselves, and make themselves a separate choir within the nave. Here we have the explanation of the arrangement which still remains; but the evidence of the fabric shows that they did something more than merely introduce the new arrangement into an existing church; they very nearly rebuilt the whole church in such a manner as to give the new arrangement the fullest scope, and to effect the most complete separation possible between the two portions of the building. To understand this, we must go back a little to consider what Dunster church had been in earlier times.

Though I have called the present discourse a monograph,

yet I have not given it the regular form of an architectural history, partly because the church, as a mere piece of architecture, hardly merits it; partly because, when I last visited Dunster, my physical strength and consequent spirits were by no means equal to that process of examining every nook and corner, every seam and joint of masonry, which has cost me many a considerable head-ache in the eastern chapels of St. David's. I think, however, I can make out a general sketch of the history of the building, as far as is required for our immediate purpose, though I would not put it forth with the same confidence as I might under more favourable circumstances.

The Priory of Dunster was originally founded towards the close of the eleventh century, and some small portions of the church, which was doubtless built soon afterwards, still exist. A little to the west of the western arch of the present lantern a large Norman arch, spans the nave, and connected with it on each side is a portion of masonry, that to the south showing a small fragment of a Norman pillar. The Norman church then had a nave and aisles, doubtless of the same proportion in point of width as the present ones, for the nave is still extremely wide, and the aisles unusually narrow. Of its probable length I cannot undertake to speak.

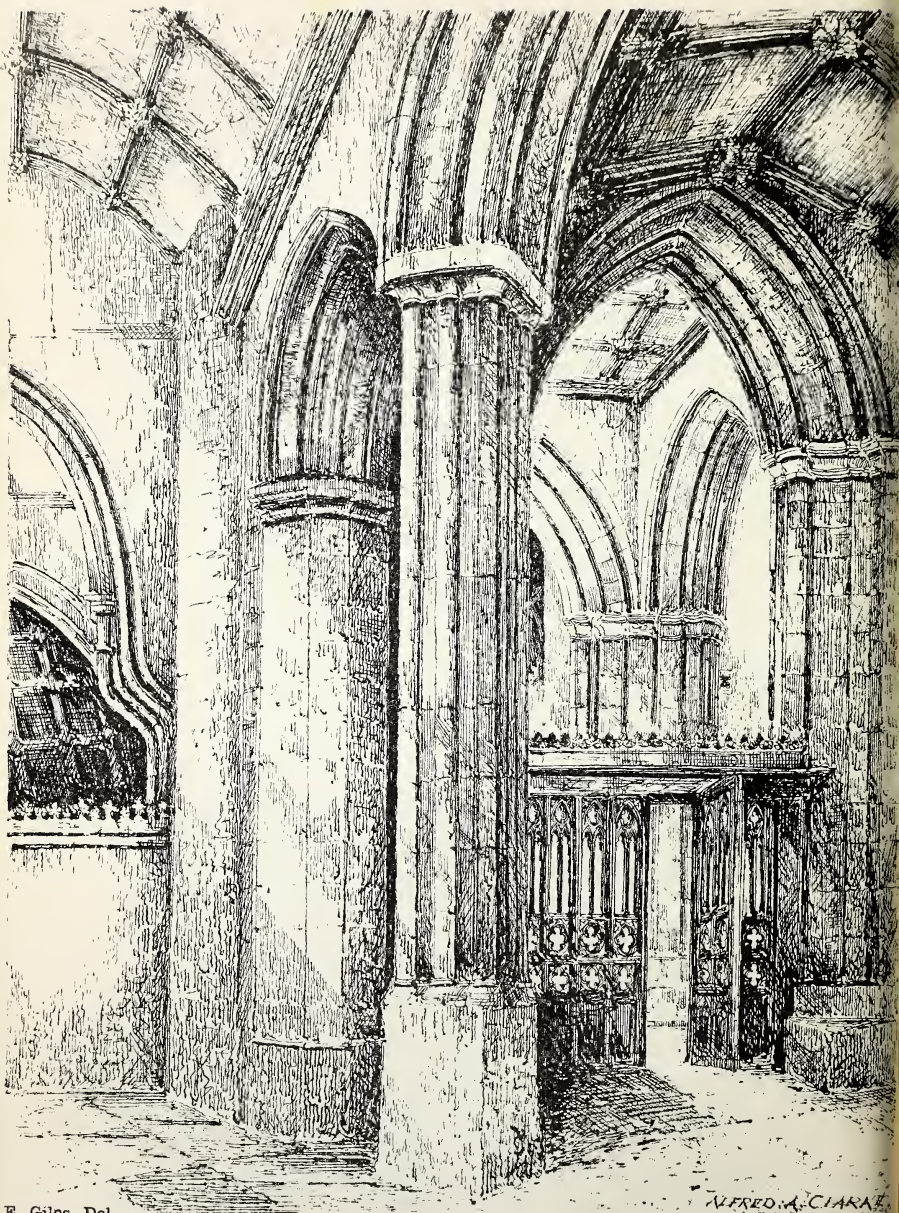
The Norman arch across the nave has clearly been tampered with, and its inner order or orders taken away; but I could see no sign of its having been removed from its original place. From its position, it might be either a mere chancel-arch, if there were no central tower, or the western arch of a lantern, if there were one. But as a Transitional arch leads from the south transept into the south aisle of the monks' choir, I think we may safely infer that the original church was cruciform,

with a lantern tower, of considerably greater massiveness than the present one. Now, from the ordinary arrangements of Norman conventual churches, we should expect to find the ritual choir, containing the stalls of the monks, under this central tower, the eastern limb—then probably of short extent—forming the presbytery. And I think we have some evidence that the stalls continued to occupy this position down to the award of 1499. In that sentence the Vicar and parishioners are directed to attach their new choir to the altar of St. James, on the south side of the door into the monks' choir. But, as we can hardly doubt that the present altar occupies nearly the same position (as far as east and west are concerned) which those arbitrators intended, it seems to follow that the roodscreen was, up to that time, placed across the western arch of the lantern, and that the monks' choir was under the central tower. The eastern limb contains some vestiges of Early English work, in a string at the east end, continued along part of the south side. It is also clear from the masonry that the Perpendicular arches on each side have been cut through an earlier and more massive wall. Hence it appears that the original presbytery or eastern limb was without aisles, strictly so called. Yet the Transitional arch leading from the south transept into one of the present aisles shows that something was attached to the east of this transept, perhaps an apse, perhaps a square chapel not opening at all into the presbytery, as at Ewenny, or opening only by a low arch, as at Brecon. Whatever it was, it was swallowed up by the Perpendicular aisle. This Transitional arch should be noticed, on account of the extraordinary shape of its shafts, which curve inwards below the capitals, so as to give the whole an approach to the trefoil form. The arch is pointed, with Early English mouldings, but the abaci are square.

We may therefore suppose that Dunster church, up to the end of the fifteenth century, consisted of a Norman nave and aisles, a massive lantern tower at the crossing, forming the ritual choir, an eastern limb without aisles, but with small chapels or apses attached to the transepts. The two portions, the parochial and the monastic, were brought into close juxtaposition, and were doubtless only separated by a screen. It was now determined to reconstruct the whole pile in such a way as to make the most marked division between them, and, in fact, to convert the building into two distinct churches.

It will here be desirable to refer to two somewhat analogous cases elsewhere, which may help to elucidate the principle on which this was effected. The one is the abbey church of Wymondham in Norfolk, which forms the subject of an admirable monograph by Mr. Petit, in the Norwich volume of the Proceedings of the Institute ; the other is the collegiate church of Ruthin in Denbighshire, illustrated by myself in a late number of the *Archæologia Cambrensis*. At Wymondham, as at Dunster, the monks and the people quarrelled about the possession of the church, and eventually compromised the matter by literally cutting it in two. The monks took the eastern, the parish the western portion, and the monks erected a tower between the two. This tower was not a mere central lantern, but a real western tower to their own church, having a dead wall towards the parish church, pierced only by two small doorways. The parishioners subsequently built an immense tower at *their* west end, so that, as the monastic portion is now in ruins, the parish church stands with a tower at each end.

At Ruthin, a church of the fourteenth century, the plan adopted from the beginning was somewhat analogous to



C. E. Giles, Del.

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* DUNSTER CHURCH : SOMERSETSHIRE :

FROM UNDER THE CENTRAL TOWER.

that subsequently introduced at Wymondham. The church is not cruciform, but the tower is interposed between the nave or parish church, and the collegiate choir to the east, since destroyed. This tower differs from that at Wymondham in not having a solid west wall, but an eastern and western arch ; but it was evidently intended to act as a barrier between the choir and the nave, and not to be itself a portion of either. A screen, with signs of an altar against it, runs across the western arch, so that it was no part of the nave, while external doorways and other features of its arrangement show that it was no part of the choir. It evidently remained an insulated portion between the two.

Now it appears to me that the changes of 1499 introduced a similar arrangement into Dunster church. The old Norman tower-choir was taken down, the monks' choir was removed into the eastern limb, and the present tower was erected between the monastic and parochial portions of the church. The high altar of the parish church was placed under the western arch, the roodscreen of the priory church under the eastern arch. The lantern itself, with the transepts, formed a noble vestibule to the church of the monks, who had a private entrance in the west wall of the south transept. Even the external character of the tower suggests something of this kind ; it is emphatically a tower and not a lantern, being unusually lofty, and furnished with diagonal buttresses. Perhaps, however, I ought not to insist upon this last feature, which occurs in other central towers in Somersetshire, where the same explanation cannot be given. The internal appearance of this tower and transepts is exceedingly noble. The lantern arches, though not very elaborate, are of excellent proportions, tall, bold, and somewhat

narrow; and the general effect of the *empty* transept, being neither choked with pews, like the nave, nor yet left to decay, like the choir, is striking in the extreme. One may perhaps regret that the crossing itself is not vaulted, like Ilminster; but possibly that grand finish is more in harmony with the idea of a genuine lantern, a centre of unity, than with that of a tower forming a barrier between two distinct buildings. Externally there is a pleasing effect about the south transept front; it has a pretty, simple, elevation, consisting of a tall, well-proportioned window, with a niche on each side, and a doorway below.

East and west of this neutral space, the monks and the parishioners appear to have remodelled their respective portions, without much regard to each other's proceedings. At least there is a wide difference in the details employed in the two, and we cannot hesitate in decidedly preferring those of the parochial portion. One expectation which we might fairly form is doomed to disappointment. As the Priory of Dunster was a cell to that of Bath, one might have fairly expected to find some approximation in its architecture, to the magnificent, if anomalous, reconstruction of the mother church which was going on much about the same time. But no resemblance is to be seen, unless we look for it in so vague a point as the use of the four-centred pier-arch, and in the somewhat uncouth design of the east window. Most of the windows in the church are of very much better character.

The monks, as I before said, now removed their stalls into the limb east of the tower, one undoubtedly quite spacious enough to contain both the choir and presbytery of so small a foundation. But while they thus diminished their space from east to west, they gave additional dignity to their portion by that addition of aisles which has been

already alluded to. They were added to two bays only, the third being left distinct as a presbytery. North of the high altar, a small chantry was thrown out, which still retains its altar. The pier-arches, as I have already implied, are four-centred; their execution is poor, and on neither side can the capitals be referred to the true Somersetshire type; on the north the abacus runs round the whole section; on the south we find a plain form of the Devonshire lozenge, a kind of capital which may be very satisfactory when exhibited in so splendid a shape as those at Lydeard St. Lawrence, but which certainly is poor enough in its Dunster variety. Both here and in the western limb the clerestory is absent throughout, and the roofs are all coved, except in the north aisle of the nave. Neglect has probably acted as their preserver, as "restoration" would almost infallibly have proved their destruction. The best bit of Perpendicular work in the conventual portion is the arch between the north transept and the north choir aisle, which comes nearer to the more usual and better kind of Somersetshire work.

And now for the part of the building west of the tower, namely, the parish church—a church, I may observe, most thoroughly complete in all its parts and divisions. The splendid roodloft fences off the parochial choir, according to the judgment of the arbitrators in 1499; but, more than this, the retention of the old Norman arch a little to the west of the present lantern actually forms a constructive presbytery for the parochial high altar, so that we have all the essential parts of an ancient church duly marked off in what is, architecturally, merely the nave of a larger cruciform building. And we may observe that this parish church of Dunster, like Westminster and Llandaff, and like the primitive basilicas, makes a more marked division between

the choir and the presbytery than between the nave and the choir, separating the latter only by a screen, but the former by an architectural member.

The parish church has an aisle on each side, but not only does the southern one extend much further to the west than its northern fellow, but the arcades do not correspond with each other as far as they go. The four arches on the north side are perceptibly narrower than the six on the south. Consequently the roodloft crosses the church in a singular manner, passing close to a pillar on one side, but not on the other.* The pillars approach nearer to ordinary Somersetshire forms than those of the conventual church. They are of the common Somersetshire section, with capitals to the attached shafts only, but these capitals are octagonal, and not round, which last, I need not say, is the form most distinctive of the county.

The general effect of this part of the church, though it does not altogether lack dignity either within or without, is gloomy and heavy, owing to its extreme width and lowness. Nothing can be conceived in more complete contrast to the aspiring forms of Wrington and Banwell, than this long, low, unclerestoried mass. But its greatest failure is at the west end. What a falling off is here from the splendours of Yatton and Crewkerne! The north aisle not being prolonged to the full extent westward, the west end is irregular and lopsided, and no care whatever appears to have been bestowed upon it. There is simply the broad, heavy gable of the nave, containing the west window and doorway—the former well-proportioned in itself, though hardly suiting its position—unrelieved by

* Similarly, in Dursley Church, Gloucestershire, the arcades on the two sides do not correspond, so that, as there is neither screen nor chancel-arch, it is impossible to say at what point the choir commences.

buttress, pinnacle, or niche. The west end of the south aisle, too, not reaching quite to the same level as that of the nave, increases the effect of irregularity, while it adds nothing in point of picturesque effect. Yet the general view of Dunster church, even from the south-west, is by no means unsatisfactory; its general outline, with the exception of the actual west end, is pleasing, though it has little to offer on the score of strictly architectural excellence.

The conventual buildings at Dunster lay on the north side of the church, but there is not very much to be made out, and the church is so enveloped with private houses and gardens that the enquiry is for the most part difficult, if not impossible. There appears to have been a small cloister in the angle between the nave and the north aisle, and attached to this, to the west, is a building, part probably of the Prior's lodgings, which retains a square-headed Perpendicular window. The monastic dove-cot, a very good specimen, retaining a wooden mediæval door, remains among the farm-buildings to the north of the church. The barn also struck me as the old one tampered with, though I must confess that I did not examine it quite so minutely as I ought.

The above is the best account of Dunster Priory that I have been able to put together under very unfavourable circumstances. Had I been in my usual health and spirits, I doubt not but that I might have produced something much better. I trust, however, that my general theory of the character and history of the building may be found accurate and satisfactory; on minuter points I would not be understood as dogmatizing with the same confidence as on other occasions.

Besides the Priory and the Castle, Dunster contains one

or two other architectural remains of some value. The old Market Hall can, indeed, hardly be called in strictness a work of architecture, but its picturesque effect is about as perfect as may be. But the Luttrell Arms Inn contains some portions worthy of more detailed examination. There is a good Perpendicular porch, on each side of which may be discerned some defensive preparations, which seem to imply the possibility of mine host—if hostelry it were from the beginning—being called upon to stand a siege upon his own premises. Within are some good cinquecento chimney-pieces and other ornamental work; there is also, in a rather out-of-the-way part, where the visitor will have to look for it, some effective, though rather coarse, Perpendicular wood-work, two ranges of windows namely, with intermediate panelling.

I may also mention that in going up one of the hills out of the town, nearly westward from the church, I observed what appeared to be an ancient well or conduit.

Of other churches in the neighbourhood, I have never seen many, and Minehead is the only one which I have been able to revisit on the present occasion. What I had to say about its tower, as well as St. Decumans, I said in a former paper, but the church itself may deserve a few words of notice. It is not a building of any great size or magnificence, but it possesses some remarkable features, and it derives a certain amount of attractiveness from its striking position on the slope of the bold promontory which forms one of the grandest features of this side of the Bristol Channel. The church consists of a nave and north aisle, with a small chapel north of the latter at the east end, so that there are three eastern gables, producing a picturesque effect from the south-east. This north-east chapel

is connected with the north aisle by a wooden arch, and we may notice its coved roof, with the part over the altar boarded. There is another less intelligible projection about the middle of the north side, which appears to have a stone roof, but which is altogether blocked and inaccessible within. The two principal bodies are separated by an arcade of eight arches, rising from plain octagonal pillars, which at present decline fearfully from the perpendicular. There is no architectural distinction between nave and chancel, but a magnificent roodloft screens off the three eastern bays. This terminates in the south wall in a remarkable staircase-turret, which is at once square in shape, unusually large, and lighted by a large square-headed window, of the kind usual in Somersetshire domestic work. There is also something singular in the panelled arch of the east window of the aisle. The church, like Dunster, is very wide. The roofs are coved, except under the tower, where are the remains of a rich flat ceiling. There are some monumental antiquities worth attention, and also a statue or idol, apparently of Queen Anne, standing, for no intelligible cause, at the east end of the aisle. The richly-carved Communion-table should also be noticed. I do not think there are any portions earlier than the Perpendicular æra.

St. Decumans I visited but hastily some years back, when I was chiefly studying the towers, and I cannot make very much out of my old notes. But I can perceive that it contains details which will repay examination, both of Perpendicular and earlier times. The chancel has an east window of good early Geometrical tracery, and a lancet on the north side, beautifully treated inside, with a deeply moulded trefoil rear-arch, rising from shafts with floriated capitals. Pointed coved roofs remain throughout.

Carhampton is a little double-bodied church, without a tower, which also contains some Early work. There is a small lancet at the west end, and a square-headed Decorated window on the north of the chancel, rather of a Northamptonshire pattern. But the arcade is Perpendicular, with four-centred arches, and the roodloft here also runs right across the church. This omission of the chancel-arch, and this extreme prominence given to the roodloft, is certainly a sign that we are here approaching the borders of Devon. It is quite different from what is usual in the more eastern part of Somersetshire.

This is unfortunately all I have to lay before you relating to the churches and other antiquities of the Deanry of Dunster.

On the Charters and other Archives of Cleeve Abbey.

BY THE REV. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., F.L.S.,
F.R.S.L., ETC.; HON. MEMBER.

I AM painfully sensible that the subject on which I have to solicit your attention is of necessity so deeply covered with the dust of ages as to be disregarded by many, and repulsive to more. The examination of ancient Records is a branch of archæology which none but professed antiquaries are accustomed to cultivate as its importance demands or as its interest deserves. Many causes, doubtless, concur to bring about this result. Our ancient Records are presented to us in characters strange and obsolete—are not only unintelligible, but altogether illegible, by any save an initiated eye, and, whether in Latin or in English, have little in common with the classical aspect of the former language, or the prevailing dialect of our own age. And yet I need not say, in the presence of such an auditory as I have now the honour of addressing, that on the knowledge with which ancient Records furnish us,

depends, in no inconsiderable degree, our ability of pursuing with success any other branch of archæological science. A pilgrimage to some picturesque ruin is of itself delightful: but the gratification is increased a hundred-fold when we are in possession of its previous history, the affecting mutations which it has witnessed, the strange sights on which the old walls have looked down, and the wondrous words which they have heard. Who, for instance, can look at an Abbey intelligently, and as ruins of holy places ought to be looked at, unless he know something of its pious founder, its saintly benefactors, and the part which it has played in our country's annals. For this species of information we must go to those sources to which I have alluded—our manuscript collections of record lore. Or we must be miserably content, as are only too many readers, and alas! writers also, of archæological productions, to write or to read what has been written and published over and over again, to take our information at second, third, or tenth hand, and oftentimes to lose the truth, bewildered in the labyrinth which copyists and retailers are unhappily certain to create.

And yet, perhaps, apology is due from me for confining myself so closely, as I shall be found to do, to a department confessed to be to general students so repulsive and uninteresting. My excuse must be found in the fact that such a proceeding is obligatory on me. A few weeks ago my reverend friend, Mr. Warre, kindly invited me to furnish a paper for the present meeting, a proposal which, after the honour done to me by the Society last year, I could not bring myself to decline. I therefore mentioned Cleeve Abbey as a subject for my address to you, but was sorry to find that it was already in other hands. It was

suggested to me, however, by more than one, that the department to which I proposed to devote special attention, that of the Archives, was still open to me, and that I should undertake an investigation which my residence in the metropolis, as well as other advantages, by opening to me the rich stores of our national depositories, afforded me peculiar facilities for pursuing to a successful issue. On this desire I have acted. But see to what it has reduced me ! I cannot now lead you by some green path in the glade, with the honeysuckle hedges in full perfume alongside of us, and discourse with you as we pause every here and there, where the solemn arches are rising above the covert, or where the ivy all but conceals the sculptured foliage or the benignant lineaments of some angel or angelic man. I cannot take you through some fair portal, or bid you mark the wondrous adaptation of some architectural arrangement, or point out to your delighted eyes the rich curves of some superb moulding, the delicate crotchets of some ornamented niche, or the graceful tracery of some exquisite window. I cannot speak of the lights and shadows, the deep silence, the hallowed repose of a spot, *dilecta tabernacula Domini*, which, from times of old, religion has chosen for her home. Neither can I present you with a retrospect for your imagination to revel in, the imposing ceremonial of some early age, the prayers which irradiated the House where they were offered, or the music which carried the soul to Heaven. All this I must leave to my more fortunate coadjutor. I have, however, to say a few words about, and to put into a literal English dress, those dozen or two documents, which, be it remembered, alone enable us to know for certain that these walls are the veritable remains of a House dedicated to God, and used for His service ; which,

quaint, obsolete, jejune as they may be considered, will make us, nevertheless, far more able to enjoy our personal examination than we could have been, had the information afforded by them been through their absence lost beyond recal.

I shall arrange the documents to be brought under your notice in three divisions:—

1. Charters already printed, of which I shall give entire translations.

2. Charters not hitherto printed, which shall be accurately given in their original forms, as valuable and interesting additions to our English Monasticon ; and translated or abstracted, as most desirable.

3. Other documents illustrative of the subject, distinguishing those now for the first time printed, the originals of which shall of course be presented. And I am happy to add that these also are of considerable interest.

Cleeve Abbey was founded in the year 1188, for monks of the Cistertian Order, by William de Romare, youngest son or nephew of William de Romare, Earl of Lincoln. "This William, youngest son of the foreseid William de Romare, and of the seid Luce hys wyff, found the Abbey and Monastery of our seid blissed Lady of the Cliff, in the foreseid countie of Somerset, in the nyneth yere of the reigne of King Richard the First, late King of England; and that by the hondes and oversight of oone Hugh, then Abbat of the foreseyd Monastery and Abbey of Rewesby, the which stalled and made then first Abbot of the foresyd Monastery of Cliff aforeseid, oone Raff, as hit apperith by old wretyngs in the seide Abbey of Cliff." *

* MS. Cott. Tib. E. 8, f. 208.

The earliest which has come down to us is happily the charter of foundation, and furnishes us with the founder's name, and the original possessions of the Abbey.

It is printed in *Dugdale*,* with several others from a Registrum formerly in the possession of Sir Hugh Windham, one of the Judges of the Common Pleas in the year 1677, but which appears now to be lost. It is not in the British Museum, or at the Tower, or in any other Depository which I have examined; nor is it known what became of it after *Dugdale* most fortunately transcribed and printed its contents, and thereby perpetuated the information which it contained. And let me remark in passing, that the present is an excellent example of the advantages derivable from gentlemen submitting their MSS., which they are often unable themselves to read, to the hands of others by whom that work may be performed. Many a valuable MS. has perished by the conjoint influences of accident, carelessness, and time, unknown and untranscribed, the information contained in which would be of the greatest possible value to all who are interested in the history and habits of their forefathers. It has often happened that the copy has been preserved, whilst the original has been suffered to remain in its insecure situation till damp or violence completed what time had unhappily begun. Societies like the one which I am addressing cannot exert a more beneficial influence than by inducing gentlemen who possess archæological treasures, of whatever kind, to make their stores known, and consequently used, understood, and appreciated as they deserve.

* *Monasticon Anglicanum*, Ed. 1825, Vol. V., pp. 732, 733.

The following is a literal translation of the charter of foundation just now alluded to:—

(I.) “To Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Monks, and Canons, Earls, Barons, Soldiers, Clerks, and Laymen, and to all the sons of Holy Mother Church, as well present as future, William de Romara wisheth health. Know ye that I have given, and granted, and by this charter have confirmed all my land of Clyve, with all its appurtenances and liberties, and the customs which are due from the same land, the service of my soldiers of the same land alone excepted, to found an abbey, by the hand of Hugh, abbot of S. Laurence of Revesby, for the health of my soul and of that of my father, and of my mother, and of all my ancestors. These all I have given and granted and confirmed, to found the said abbey, with all its appurtenances, free and discharged from me and my heirs, and quit of all land service, and customs, and secular exaction, and pleas, and causes, and quests, for a perpetual and pure alms. Also I will and appoint that the said abbey do have and hold all these fully and entirely, in good-will and in peace, in the vill and out of the vill, with the tofts and crofts, and churches and chapels, arable land and marshes, and thickets, and meadows, and pastures, and woods, and flats, and alder groves, and moors, and roads, and paths, and waters, and rivers, and marshes, and mills, and liberties, and common rights, and all things pertaining to the same tenure, with other things and customs. These are witnesses: Reinald Bishop of Bath, Roger de Benigeworth, Radbot the butler, David de Thochington, Robert de Engain, Roger clerk.”

This was written in or previously to A.D. 1188. It was followed by a second charter in the reign of Richard I., who succeeded in 1189, reciting still more minutely the

particulars of the gift. Literally translated it is as follows :—

(II.) “To Richard, by the grace of God illustrious King of England, Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, and to all free men of the realm, and to all sons of Holy Mother Church, William de Romara wisheth health. Know ye that I have granted, and given, and by this present charter have confirmed to God, and S. Mary, and the monks of S. Laurence of Revesby, in the hand of Hugh Abbot of the same place, to found an abbey of the order Cistercian, for the health and for the soul of my liege Richard, King of England, and for the soul of K. Henry his father, my lord, who brought me up, and of all my ancestors and heirs, and for my own soul, and of Philippa my wife, and for the souls of all our ancestors and of our heirs, and of our successors, for a pure and perpetual alms, all my land of Clyve, in the vill and out of the vill, with all its appurtenances ; to wit, the whole demesne, with all my rustics residing in the same vill, and with the lands which they hold plenarily in woods and flats, and meadows and pastures, and waters and mills, and roads and paths, and all the liberties and free customs pertaining to the aforesaid vill ; but my free men of the same vill, and their service, I have retained in my own hand. All the other things aforesaid I have granted, and given to the aforesaid monks, for a pure and perpetual alms, free and quit of all customs, and pleas, and causes, and quests, from myself and my heirs and my successors, and released from all land service, and secular exaction, for ever ; to be held so well in peace and honorably, as any alms can be freely, quietly, and honorably, by any one given or held. And I and my heirs and successors will engage to maintain all these things to the aforesaid monks against all men. These are witnesses :

Lord Hugh bishop of Lincoln, Lord E. abbot of Rivaulx, Lord R. abbot of Kirkestede, Joscelyn prior of Spalding, Master Hugh de Stikeswald, Gregory clerk of Beningword; Roger chaplain, Roger clerk, Wido de Veer, Gilbert de Beningword seneschal, Ralph de Braibo, William his son, Joscelyn de Autebarga, Nicholas de Henne, William le Ostriter, William son of Richard de Haltune, William de Kales, Philip de Kales, John son of Gerard, Alan de Stikeney, Alan son of Reingot, Renner clerk of Haltune, Hugh de Warewich, William Bachun, John Carbunel, Ralph Carbunel, Thomas de Horreby, Gilbert son of Richard de Wadingword, Hugh de Gurney."

The famous Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent and Chancellor of England, the father-in-law, it will be recollected, of the founder of the Abbey, was himself a benefactor. Accordingly, the next document is a confirmation by K. John of the donations both of the founder and of his noble relative. It is here offered in a literal translation:—

(III.) "John, by the grace of God King of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitain, count of Angers, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, Justices, Viscounts, and all his Bailiffs and faithful servants health. Know ye that we have granted, and by the present charter have confirmed to God and S. Mary, and the monks of Clyve, of the Cistercian Order, serving God there, the gift which William de Romare made to them, of the site of their Abbey of Clyve, and of all the land of Clyve, with all its appurtenances. Also the gift which Hubert de Burgh our chamberlain made to them of a freehold in Clyve, with its appurtenances; and of the church of Kammel, with its appurtenances. Also of the service and tenement of Ada de Wachedford, with its appurtenances; and all other gifts made to them, as the

charters of the donors respectively attest. Wherefore we will, etc. Dated by the hand of H. Archbishop of Canterbury, our chancellor, at Loch, on the twenty-eighth day of January, in the third year of our reign."

The instrument just read was accordingly written in the year 1201-1202.

The Abbey had powerful friends; for the next charter is one of Richard E. of Cornwall, brother of K. Henry III., granting to the monks various lands in Cornwall of considerable value, together with sundry important privileges. The series of exemptions furnishes a curious picture of the multitudinous rights and services incident upon feudal tenure. In English it reads thus :—

(IV.) "To all to whom the present writing shall arrive, Richard Count of Poitiers and Cornwall wisheth health. Know all of you that I have granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed for me and my heirs, to the Abbot of Clyve and to the monks serving God there, by consideration of charity, and for the health of my soul, and of all my ancestors and successors, for a free, pure, and perpetual alms, all the lands which they possessed in Cornwall, on the day of the nativity of S. John the Baptist, in the nineteenth year of the reign of my brother King Henry; that is to say, Pochewill and Treglastan, with the appurtenances which they possessed before of the gift of Lord Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent; and the land which they possessed before at Pundestoke, of the gift of William de Pundestoke, to be had and holden by the same abbot and monks freely and peacefully, with *infangendeth* and *utfangendeth*. Also I have granted to the same, that the lands aforesaid should be quit of hidages, and shires, and hundreds, levies, assizes, and summonses for collecting treasure, and the citements of the sheriff and his servants, of the sheriff's turn,

and of all other citements, and of the county amercia-
ment, passage, pontage, and of works of castles, bridges,
stews, walls, parks, and of all enclosures, and of tithing
peny. And that the aforesaid lands be quit of clearings,
waste, and viewing of forest, and of toll, of pleas of forest,
of knights' service, and of all liabilities, customs, and secular
exactions affecting me or my heirs. Wherefore I will, etc.
These are witnesses: my venerable father, Jocelin, by the
grace of God Bishop of Bath, Lord William de Ralegh,
. . . Richard de Curry, John the son of John,
Guido of S. Amandus, Henry Theutonicus, John Bretach,
and Nicholas de Anna clerk, Robert de Esthall clerk, and
others."

The next is another charter of Hubert de Burgh the
chamberlain. It is interesting, and, translated, reads
thus:—

(V.) "Know all men present and future, that I, Hubert
de Burgh, chamberlain of our Lord the King, have given,
granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed, to
God and S. Mary, and the monks of Clyve there serving
God, now and hereafter, for the health of my soul, and of my
father and mother, and of all my ancestors and parents, and
of my heirs, for a perpetual alms, all the demesne which I
possessed in Rugeham, and the homages and services of all
freemen and their heirs, and the rustics with their lands
which I possessed in Rugeham; and whatsoever pertained
to me and to my heirs of all the tenement which I possessed
of the gift of my Lord Hugh de Fogingtone in Rugeham,
in good-will and in peace, freely and quietly, plenarily and
entirely, and honourably, in wood and in flat, in pastures
and thickets, in waters and mills, in marshes and stews, in
roads and footpaths, and with all their appurtenances, and
with all the liberties and free customs pertaining to the

same vill. All these aforesaid homages, and services, and tenements, with all their appurtenances, I have given to the aforesaid monks free and quit of me and my heirs, and released from all land service and secular demand; saving, nevertheless, the service of my Lord the King appertaining to the same land. Both I and my heirs will warrant all these tenements aforesaid to the aforesaid monks against all men and women. These are witnesses: Henry Biset, Walter de Evermue, Robert Aguilun, Richard his brother, Roger la Veile, Richard his brother, Alan de Wichtone, Alexander de Rugham, John de Yngeworth, Richard Russel, William Crakef . . . , and many others."

The next in order is the following, from Reginald de Mohun:—

(VL.) "To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, Reginald de Mohun wisheth health. Know ye that I have given, and granted, and by my present charter have confirmed to God and blessed Mary, and to the monks of Flowery Vale, which is commonly called Clyve, there serving God, and that shall hereafter serve, for the health of my soul, and of Avis my wife, and of my heirs, and all my predecessors, and my successors, for a pure and perpetual alms, all my land of Slaworth, which belonged to Richard de Slaworth and Roger son of the same; to be held and possessed of me and of my heirs for ever, with all their appurtenances; in roads and footpaths, in wood and flat, in waters and turbaries, and in pastures and downs, and all other things, by themselves and all their animals and other cattle, with free ingress and egress, freely, quietly, peacefully and honorably, and quit and released of all service and secular demand; saving the King's service, to wit as much as belongeth to the eighth part of the fee of one soldier in the fee of Dunster. But if any other

service be due, or shall be due from thence to any man, I and my heirs will discharge it out of our tenement of Dunster. We will warrant all the aforesaid land of Slaworth to the aforesaid monks, with all its appurtenances, against all men and women, as any alms can and ought freely to be discharged and warranted, saving the King's service as is aforesaid. And that this my gift and grant may remain for ever firm and unshaken, I have thought fit that my seal should be appended to the present writing. These are witnesses : etc."

William de Mohun, brother of the aforesaid Reginald, was also a benefactor of the Abbey ; and the following instrument is the confirmation by Reginald of his brother's gift. In the interim it will be perceived that he had lost his wife; as the lady named in the charter just read as Avis my wife, is here mentioned as Avis de Mohun of blessed memory :—

(VII.) "To all men to whom the present writing shall arrive, Reginald de Mohun wisheth health in the Lord. Know all of you, that I, for the health of my soul, of my father and mother, and of Avis de Mohun of blessed memory, and of all my ancestors and successors, have granted and confirmed all the gift of William de Mohun, my brother, which he gave to the monks of Clyve, of the land of Stortmanforde, with all its appurtenances, which the same William held and possessed of my gift, as the charter of the same to the same monks on that occasion made attests. And I and my heirs will warrant for ever the aforesaid land to the said monks, as our free, pure, and perpetual alms, with all its appurtenances. Which that it may continue for ever firm and stable, I have strengthened the present writing by the impression of my seal. These are witnesses : etc."

The Abbey had also royal benefactors, for the next is a charter of K. Henry III., containing a very important concession, and was doubtless received and kept with all possible observance :—

(VIII.) “Henry, by the grace of God K. of England, lord of Ireland, etc., to the Archbishops, etc., health. Know ye that we, in regard of God, and for the health of our soul, and of the souls of our ancestors and our heirs, have granted, and by this present charter have confirmed, to our beloved in Christ the abbot and convent of Clyve, in the county of Somerset, our manor of Branton in the county of Devon, with the hundred outward, and other its appurtenances, to be had and holden of us and of our heirs, by paying every year to our treasury, by their own hand, twenty and two pounds, at two terms ; that is to say, at the feast of S. Michael eleven pounds, and at Easter eleven pounds; saving to the men of the same manor, and to other men who are not of the same manor, their own common pasturage, which they have possessed in the same manor, prior to this our grant. Wherefore we will, etc. Given by the hand of the venerable father R. bishop of Chichester, our chancellor, at Gloucester, the twenty-fifth day of June, in the thirteenth year of our reign.”

This, therefore, was in the year 1228. Two years previous to this, however, K. Henry had granted the Abbey a charter referring to grants already noticed. In English it stands thus:—

(IX.) “Henry, King, etc., health. Know ye that we, in regard of God, etc., have granted, and by this our charter have confirmed to God and blessed Mary and the monks of Clyve, the lands and tenements underwritten, that is to say of the gift of Hubert de Burgh, at the time that he

was Chamberlain of our Lord K. John, our father, all the land which belonged to Walter, son of Matthew de Beningeworth, in Clyve, with all its appurtenances. Of the gift of the same Hubert, then Chamberlain of the same our father, all homages and services of all their free men of Clyve, and of their heirs, with all appurtenances, the service of Ralph, son of William, and his heirs excepted. Also of the gift of the same Hubert, afterwards Earl of Kent, all his land of Treglastan and of Pothwell, with all its appurtenances. Wherefore I will, etc. These are witnesses : A. Bishop of Coventry, Th. Bishop of Norwich, R. Earl of Chester and Lincoln, William Marshall Earl of Pembroke, J. constable of Chester, Osbert Giffard, Ralph son of Nicholas, Hugh Despenser, Geoffrey Despenser, and others. Given by the hand of the venerable father, R. Bishop of Chichester, our Chancellor, at Windsor, the third day of September, in the year, etc., eleven.”*

That was in 1226. The next is also a confirmation by the same King of a previous grant:—

(X.) “The King has granted, and by his charter has confirmed, to the abbot and convent of Clive, in the county of Somerset, the manor of Bramton, with the hundred without, in the county of Devon, with other its appurtenances. To be holden of the King and his heirs for ever, at a rent of twenty two pounds per annum. And it is ordered to the Sheriff of Gloucester that he make them to have a full seizin of the manor of Bramton, etc. Witness, the King, at Gloucester, the twenty-fifth day of June.”†

At this point my first division, that of the charters hitherto printed, ends. The documents form an interesting

* Cart. 11., Hen. III., pat. 2, m. 3. *Dugdale*, Monast. Angl., Vol. V., p. 734.

† Rot. Fin. 23 Hen. III., m. 7. *Dugdale*, Vol. V., p. 734.

series; and I hope that the English dress, in which they now for the first time appear, will avail to make them more generally intelligible.

My second division, however, may be allowed to be of still greater interest, as it consists of documents not hitherto printed, and which, I presume, are consequently new to the majority at least of the Society's members.

The first is a transcript of the original charter of K. Henry III., which was abstracted rather than copied in the Registrum before mentioned as belonging to Sir Hugh Windham, and thence printed by Dugdale, No. VIII. I believe the one now given to be the oldest of the Cleeve Charters which have come down to us in their original form, and have accordingly printed it, as supplying the means to those who possess the *Monasticon* of making a very interesting comparison. It is sufficiently similar to No. VIII., above given, as to need no translation.*

* In printing these documents, I have thought proper to give them as nearly as possible in their actual form; but as the Society's fount is unable to supply the numerous marks of MS. contraction, I have signified the presence of these by the apostrophe comma ('). By persons who are conversant with MS. literature, not the slightest difficulty will be found in supplying the particular marks thus indicated, and the letters whose absence they serve to denote.

My researches have furnished so large a quantity of materials, that I am precluded from even expressing a desire that the Society should publish the whole. I have, therefore, selected for the press such of the Charters, etc., as I deem most interesting. I would direct the attention, however, of any future historian of Cleeve Abbey to the following list of documents, which appear to me of the next degree of interest, and which I have taken from a long and varied catalogue:—

Fin. 13 Hen. III., m. 7.—Pat. 20 Edw. I., m. 26.—Pat. 9 Edw. I., m. 16.—Rec. in Scacc. 24 Edw. I., Rot. Trin.—Cart. 12 Ed. II., n. 37.—Pat. 14 Edw. II., p. 2, m. 13.—Pat. 20 Edw. III., p. 1, m. 19.—Pat. 27 Edw. III., p. 1, m. 26.—Pat. 30 Edw. III., p. 3, m. 10.—Pat. 2 Hen. IV., p. 1, m. 36.—Rec. in Scacc. 4 Hen. V., Pasch. rot. 9.—Pat. 24 Hen. VI., p. 1, m. 6.—Pat. 8 Edw. IV., p. 2, m. 20.

(1.) "P' Abb'e de Clyva. H. Rex Angl' &c., salt'. Nov'itis nos, intuitu Dei, & p' salute aï'e n're, & aï'ar' an'cess' & he'du' n'ror', co'cessisse, & hac carta n'ra co'f', dilc'is nob' i' X'po Abb'ti & Co'ventui de Clyva, i' Com' Sum'set, man'iu' n'r'm de Bramton', i' Com' Devon', cu' hu'dredo forinseco, & aliis p'tin' suis, h'ndu' & tenend' de nob' & h'edib' n'ris, sⁱ & eor' succ' i'p'petuu' ad feodi f'r'ma' ; reddendo inde nob' & h'edib' n'ris sing'lis annis ad sec^am n'r'm, p' manu' sua' xxii. li'. ad duos t'ios, videl' ad festu' S'ci Mich'is . xi. li'. , & ad Pasch' . xi. li'. salva ho'ib' ejusd' man'ij, et aliis ho'ib' qui no' sunt de man'io illo, com'i past'a sua qua' habu'nt i' eode' man'io ante ha'c co'cess' n'ram. Q^are volum' &c. q'd p'dc'i abbas, & co'vent', & eor' succ', h'ant & teneant de nob' & h'edib' n'ris p'dc'm man'ium, cu' p'tin' suis i'p'petuu', ad feodi f'r'ma', bn', & i' pace, libe', quiete, & integ^e, cu' o'ib' lib'tatib' & lib'is co'suetud' ad p'dc'm man'iu' p'tin'. Reddendo inde nob' & h'edib' n'ris, singulis annis, ad sec^am n'r'm, p' manu' sua', xxii. li'. p'dc'as ad t'ios p'dc'os. Salva ho'ib' ejusd' man'ij, & aliis ho'ib' qui no' su't de man'io illo, com'i past'a sua, qua' h'unt i' eod' man'io an' ha'c co'cess' n'ram, sic' p'dc'm est. Hiis T'. H. de Burgo, &c. Joh'e de Munem', Henr' de Aldithel, Will'o de Cantilup', Ric'o de G^ay, Gileb'to Basset, Thom' Basset, Joh'e fil' Phil', Galfr'o Dispens', Rad'o de Raleg', & aliis. Dat' p' manu', ut s^a, [ven'ab' p'ris R. Cicestr' Ep'i, Canc' n'ri] ap' Glouc', xxv die Jun', anno &c. xiii^o."*

The next is from the Close Rolls, and is addressed by the same King to the tenants of Brampton, calling upon them to do suit and service to the Abbot and Convent, in agreement with the terms of the last-named grant :—

* Cart. 13 Henry III., p. 1, m. 3.

(2.) “P’ Abb’e & Monachis de Cliva de man’io de Bramton’.

“Rex militib’, lib’is ho’ib’, tene’tib’ de man’io de Bra’p-ton’, salt’. Sciatis qd commisim’ Abb’i & Monachis de Cliva man’iu’ de Bra’pton cu’ p’tin’, tenendu’ de nob’ & h’edib’ n’ris i’p’petuu’, ad feodi firma’, reddendo inde nob’ & heredib’ n’ris sing’lis annis xxij libras, sic’ pleni’ continet’ in carta n’ra q’am inde h’nt. Et id’o vob’ mandam’ q’d eisd’ Abb’i & Monachis de consuetudinib’ et s’viciis q’ nob’ fac’e consuevistis & fac’e debuistis, q’amdiu man’iu’ predc’m exstitit i’ manu n’ra, inte’d’e’tes decet’o sitis & respo’d’e’tes. T. R. ap’ Lond’, xxvj die Sept’. Et ma’d’ est Vic’ Devon’, q’d si ip’i inde eisd’ Abb’i & Monach’ intendere nolu’int, & respo’dere, ad id faciend’ ip’os distingat. T. ut s^a [T. R. ap’ Derteford’, xx die Sept’.]”*

The next is a Charter of Inspeximus from the same King, recounting the provisions of one of his own former grants, and particularizing the various exemptions which the Abbey enjoyed. It is in many respects similar to No. IV., but the exemptions are stated with greater minuteness :—

(3.) “Pro Abb’e & Monach’ de Clyve. R. Archiep’is &c. salt’m. Inspexim’ cartam n’ram q’am dudum fieri fecimus Abbati de Cliva & Monachis ibidem Deo s’vientib’, in hec v’ba : Henr’, Dei Gra’ Rex Angl’, Dn’s Hibn’, Dux Norm’, Aquit’, Com’ Ang’, Archiep’is, Ep’is, Abbatib’, P’orib’, Comitib’, Baronib’, Justic’, Vic’, P’positis, ministris, & om’ib’ Ball’is, & fidel’ suis, salt’m. Sciatis nos, intuitu Dei, & p’ salute anime n’re, & animar’ antecessor’ & her’ n’ror’, concessisse, & hac carta n’ra, confirmasse, Abbati de Cliva & Monachis ibidem Deo s’viantib’ & eor’ successorib’,

* Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 4.

in lib'am pura' et p'petua' elemos', Abbacia' sua' de Cliva, & q'd h'eant & tenea't om'es terras & ten' sua, que eis ronab'r data su't, & infut'um ronabil'r & justis modis adquirere pot'u't ; cu' soca, & scota, & thol, & theam, infangenethef, utfangenethef ; & q'd suit quieti de geldis, & danegeldis, & de murdr', & de pecunia que ad murdr' p'tinet, sine ad latrociniiu', & de hydagiis, & schiris, & hundr', & exercitib', & assisis, sum'onico'ib', & de tesauo ducendo, & auxilio Vic' & s'vientu' suor', & de turno Vic', & de om'ib' auxiliis aliis, & de misc'dia Comitatu', passagio, pontagio, & de op'aco'ib' castellar', ponciu', & vivarior', muror', vallor', parcor', & de om'ib' clausuris, & de warpeni, & hav'peni, & de lestagio, & stallagio, & de hengwite, & flemenewyte, & de bladenewite, & fictwyte, & de thethingpeni ; & ut om's terra & tenem'ta que habent sint quietata de essartis, vasto, et regardo foreste, & de om'ib' occ'onib' & co'suetudinib', & ab o'i exacc'one s'culari ; & h'eant wreccu' p' om'es terras suas. Et ne quis ponat eos qui de eadem Abbacia su't in placitu' de aliquo tenem'to quod tenea't, nisi cora' nob' v'l capitali Justic' n'ro ; ut ip'i de eadem Abbacia sint quieti de theoloneo, & de placitis foreste, & de scutagiis. Quare volum' & firmit'r p'cipim', q'd p'dc'i Abbas & Monachi & eor' successores h'eant & teneant imp'petuu' p'dc'as terras et ten' p'dc'a, bn', & in pace, libe', & quiete, & integre, cum om'ib' libertatib' & quietanciis p'dc'is, sicut p'dc'm est. Hiis testib', Hugone de Burgo, Com' Kanc', Justic' Angl', Will'o Marescallo, Com' Penbr', Walt'o de Clifford, Steph'o de Segave, Joh'e de Monem', Will'o Warini fil', Ph'o de Albinaco, Rad'o fil' Nich'i, Rad'o de Raleg', Ric'o fil' Hug', & aliis. Dat' p' manu' ven'abil' p'ris Rad'i Cicestr' Ep'i, Cancellar' n'ri, apud Hereford', vicesimo die Aug' anno r.' n.' duodecimo. Et quia imp'essio sigilli n'ri quo

tunc utebam' casual'r confracta est, nos, intuitu caritatis, & ad instanciam Abb'tis & Monachor' loci p'de'i, tenore' carte p'de'e sub p'senti sigillo n'ro quo nunc utim'.duxim' innovandum. Hiis testib', Rob'to Waleraund, Rob'to Aguylim, Nich'o de Leukenore, Will'o de Aete, Joh'e de la Lynde, Petro de Nevill', Rad'o de Bakepu', Will'o Belet, Barth'o Bigod, Steph'o de Eddeworth', & aliis. Dat' p' manu' n'ram, apud Westm', duodecimo die Januar'."* †

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Next follows another Charter of Inspeximus, from Edward I. to the Abbot and monks, recounting the provisions of a Charter of Hubert de Burgh, which is referred to in that of K. John, translated above, No. III. :—

(4.) "P' Monachis de Clyva. R. om'ib' ad quos &c. sal'm. Inspexim' cartam quam Hub'tus de Burgo fecit Deo, & B'e Marie, & Monachis de Clyve, in hec verba : Om'ib' filiis S'ce M'ris Eccl'ie Hub'tus de Burgo, Cam'ari' d'ni Regis, sal'm. Sciatis me dedisse, co'cessisse, & hac p'senti carta mea confirmasse, Deo, & S'ce Marie, & Monachis meis de Clyva ibidem Deo s'vientib', p' salute ai'e mee, & o'um antecessor', & her' meor', eccl'iam de Camel, cu' om'ib' p'tin' suis, in p'petuam & pura' el'am, habenda' & possidendam in p'prios usus, scil't ad vestitu' p'de'or' Monachor' & frum'. Hiis testib', Luca Capp'llano, Will'o de Cancell', Rob'to Aguillim, Rog'o la Velye, Henr' de Birlingh^{am}, Rinaldo de Clyft, Thoma cl'ico, Alano de Wiht', Milone Olivero de Vaus. Nos autem p'de'as dona-

* Cart. 51 Hen. III., m. 10.

† A translation of, and commentary on, this charter were desirable ; but my very limited space, and anxiety to include as many original documents as possible, must plead for their absence. My English readers will find, nevertheless, that they have not been forgotten, as, besides the translations already given, several others will be presented to them before the conclusion of my paper.

co'em & co'essione' ratas h'entes & gratas, eas p' nob' & her' n'ris, q'antu' in nob' est, concedim' & confirmam', sicut carta p'dc'a r'onabilit' testatur. In cuj', &c. T. ut s^a. [T. R. apud Westm', vj. die Jun'.] ” *

The next is an instrument permitting by special favour Gilbert de Wolavinton to assign a carucate of land, with its appurtenances, in Fernacre, Crandon, and Stanbrok, to the Abbot and Convent, the statute of mortmain notwithstanding, and the Abbot and Convent to accept the same with certain restrictions :—

(5.) “ P' Abbate de Clyve. R'. om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Licet de co'i consilio regni n'ri statu'im' q'd no' liceat viris religiosis seu aliis ingredi feodum alicujus, ita q'd ad manu' mortuam deveniat, sine licencia n'ra & capital' d'ni de quo res illa immediate tenet^r; volentes tamen dila'o nob' Gilb'to de Wolavinton' gra'm fac'e sp'alem, dedimus ei licenciam, q'antum in nob' est, q'd ip'e unam carucatam t're cum p'tin' in Fernacre, Crandon, & Stanbrok', que de dila'is nob' in X'po Abbate & Conventu de Clyve tenent^r, immediate dare possit & assignare eisdem Abbati & Conventui, tenendam et h'endam sibi & successorib' suis imp'petuu' ; et eisdem Abbati & Conventui q'd t'ram illam ab eodem Gilb'to recip'e possint, tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem. Nolentes q'd idem Gilb'tus vel heredes sui, aut p'dc'i Abbas & Conventus aut eor' successores, racione statuti p'dc'i, p' nos vel heredes n'ros inde occ'onentur in aliquo, seu g'aventr'. Salvis tamen capitalib' d'nis feodi illius s'viciis inde debitis & co'suetis. In cujus, &c. T'. R'. apud Wy, xvij. die Junii.

“ P' ip'm Regem, quia finem fecit coram Thes' & Baronib' de Sc'acio, sicut idem Thes' mandavit.” †

* Pat. 9 Edw. 1., m. 16.

† Pat. 27 Edw. I., m. 22.

The Charter Roll, 14 Edward II., contains a Charter of *Inspeximus*, the greater portion of which is occupied by the instrument already given (No. 3.) It concludes thus :—

(6.) “*Nos autem concessione’ & confirmaco’em p’dc’as ratas h’entes & g’atas, eas p’ nob’ & heredib’ n’ris, quantum in nob’ est, dile’is nob’ in X’po Abbati & Monachis loci p’dc’i & eor’ successorib’ concedim’ & confirmam’, sicut carta p’dc’a r’onabilit’ testat’, & p’ut ip’i & p’decessores sui lib’tatib’ p’dc’is hactenus r’onabilit’ usi sunt & gavisi. Hiis testib’, ven’abilib’ p’rib’ W. Cantuar’ Archiep’o tocius Angl’ primate, J. Norwicen’ Ep’o Cancellar’ n’ro, W. Exon’ Ep’o Thes’ n’ro, Adomaro de Valencia Comite Pembr’, Humfr’o de Boum Comite Hereford’ & Essex’, Hugone le Despens’ seniore, Barth’o de Baddelesm’e senescallo Hospicij n’ri, & aliis. Data p’ manu’ n’ram apud Westm’, xxvij die Octobr’. P’ fine’ quinq’ marcar’. dupp’.*” *

The Charter which follows, confirms the gift by one Osmer de Tregu of a moiety of his mills at Great Hurdyn and Treglastan, and of the waste of Foymore, in the county of Cornwall :—

(7.) “*P’ Abb’e & Conventu B’e Marie de Clyve. R’ om’ib’ ad quos &c. sal’t’m. Donaco’em, remissione’, relaxaco’em, & quietam clamanciam quas Henricus Osmer de Tregu p’ scriptum suu’ fecit, Deo, & Beate Marie de Clyve, & Monachis ibidem Deo s’vientib’, de tota medietate duor’ molendinor’, videlicet de magno Hurdyn & de Treglast’, & eciam de medietate tocius vasti de Foymore, ratas h’entes & gratas, eas p’ nob’ & he’dib’ n’ris, q’antum in nob’ est, dile’is nob’ in X’po Abb’i & Conventui loci p’dc’i concedim’ & confirmam’, sicut scriptum p’dc’m r’onabilit’ testat’.*

* Cart. 14 Edw. II., n. 30.

Nolentes q'd p'dc'i Abbas, vel Conventus, aut successores sui, r'one statuti de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortuam non ponend' editi, p' nos vel he'des n'ros, Justic', Escaetores, Vicecomites, ant alios balli'os, seu ministros n'ros quoscumq', inde occ'onent'r, molestent'r in aliquo, seu g'avent'r. In cujus, &c. T'. R'. apud Nova' Sar', xxiiij. die Octobr'. P' finem sexaginta solidor'. Cornub'." *

The Patent Rolls of the following year supply us with the next, which is in answer to a petition from the Abbot and Convent, in reference to lands at Brampton in the county of Devon, a locality whose name so often finds a place among the records of this House :—

(8.) " P' Abb'e & Conv' de Clyve, de t'r &c. adquirend' &c. R'. om'ib' ad quos &c. sal't'm. Sciatis q'd cum dn's E. nup' Rex Angl', pat'r n'r, p' l'ras suas patentes concessisset & licenciam dedisset p' se & he'dib' suis, q'antum in ip'o fuit, dile'is nob' in X'po Abb'i & Conventui de Clyve, q'd ip'i t'ras ten' & redditus usq' ad valorem decem librar' p'annu' juxta verum valorem eor'dem tam de feodo suo p'pio q'm alieno, exceptis t'ris ten' & redditib' que de ip'o p're n'ro tenebant'r in capite, adquirere possent, h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis imp'petuu', statuto de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortuam non ponend' edito non obstante, p'ut in l'ris ip'ius p'ris n'ri p'dc'is plenius continet'r ; ac iidem Abbas & Conventus nob' supplicaverint, ut ip'i unu' mesuagiū duas solidatas reddit', & medietatem unius ferlingi t're cum p'tin' in Brampton' de Henr' Billyng', & duo mesuagia cum p'tin' in eadem villa de Thoma fil' Rob'ti Curtays Aleyn virtute concessionis p'dc'e adquisivissent, & ea ingressi fuissent, priusq'am inquisico'es inde in Can-cellar' ip'ius p'ris n'ri seu n'ra retornate fuissent, velim'

* Pat. 2 Edw. III., p. 2, m. 19.

concedere eisdem Abb'i & Conventui, q'd ip'i p'dc'a mesu-
 agia, t'ram, & redditum cum p'tin' retin'e possint, sibi &
 successorib' suis imp'petuu', in p'tem satisfacco'is decem
 libratar' t'rar' ten' & reddituu' p'dc'ar' ; Nos, eor' suppli-
 caco'i in hac p'te annuentes, & concessionem ip'ius p'ris
 n'ri p'dc'am volentes effectui mancipari, p'donavim' p'fatis
 Abb'i & Conventui t^{ns}gressiones fc'as in hac p'te, & con-
 cessim' p' nob' & he'dib' n'ris, quantu' in nob' est, q'd ip'i
 mesuagia t'ram et redditum p'dc'a cum p'tin' que de p'fatis
 Abb'e & Conventu tenent^r, sicut p' inquisico'em p' dile'm
 & fidelem n'rm Simonem de Bereford', Escaetorem n'rm
 cit^a Trentam, de mandato n'ro captam, & in Canc' n'ra
 retornatam est comp'tum, h'eant & teneant sibi & success-
 orib' suis imp'petuu', in valorem decem solidor' p' annu' in
 p'tem satisfacco'is decem libratar' t'rar' ten' & reddituu'
 p'dc'ar', sine occ'one vel impedimento n'ri vel he'dum n'ror',
 Justic', Esc', Vic', aut alior' balli'or', seu ministror' n'ror'
 quor'cu'q', statuto p'dc'o non obstante : salvis tamen capi-
 talib' d'nis feodor' illor' s'viciis inde debitis & consuetis.
 In cuj', &c. T. J. de Eltham, &c. apud Cantuar', quarto
 die Jun'." *

In the Chapterhouse at Westminster is preserved a very interesting record which relates to the manor of Abbotes-
 hendra in Cornwall. Unfortunately it is too long for the
 space allotted to me; but one or two extracts will be neces-
 sary for the sake of exhibiting important information not
 elsewhere, so far as I know, to be found. The record itself
 may be referred to without difficulty, by attending to the
 reference.

Abbot Leonard, at the time in question, governed the
 Monastery :—

* Pat. 3 Edw. III., p. 1, m. 13.

(9.) "Et ad p'dc'am xv^{am} Pasche, p'dc'i Leonardus Abbas B'e Marie de Clyva & manucaptores sui p'dc'i ven' p' p'dc'um Will'm Gascoigne," etc.

Further on, a former instrument is quoted, in which occur the words,

"Tenuit die p'mulgaco'is utlagar' p'dc'e sibi & heredib' suis man'iu' de Abbotesendra, cu' p'tin' in Com' p'dc'o, ex dono & concessione Joh'is Mason', nup' Abb'is de Clyva, & eiusdem loci Conventus," etc.

And still further,

"Et q'd p'dc'us Joh'es Mason', & Joh'es Plympton', nup' Abbas de Clyva, et Leonardus nunc Abbas de Clyva, receperunt," etc. *

These extracts furnish us, in John Mason or John Plympton, with the name of at least one additional Abbot to the list given in *Dugdale*. Dugdale, who, however, possessed sources of information which are now lost, gives none between Abbot Robert de Clire 1321, and William Seylake 1419, except "John, 1407," and "Leonard, 1416." The last mentioned is no doubt the Leonardus of the present Charter, which refers to the year 1416: for the "John" which precedes him we can now insert John Plympton and John Mason.

The document next in order is one of peculiar interest in the history of the Abbey. It appears that a chapel anciently erected to the honour of the Blessed Virgin had been wholly destroyed by a flood: and the Charter now to be offered is a licence to hold a weekly market and two fairs yearly towards the liquidation of the expenses connected with its re-erection. I presume it was to this building that the commission to consecrate referred, the

* Memorand. 4 Hen. V., Pasch Rec. m. 9, dors.

issue of which is recorded in *Dugdale* (Vol. v., p. 731, note e), from the *Harleian MS.* 6966, p. 82. The commission is said to be issued (I give it in translation) “for the dedication of a chapel near the Monastery of Clyve, which David the Abbot of the same Monastery has lately caused to be built and erected from the foundation handsomely and sumptuously to the honour of the B. V. Mary, and of a certain small portion of land adjacent and contiguous to the said chapel, to be limited at the judgment of the said Bishop, for the formation of a cemetery, and itself to be consecrated ; it being provided that nothing be yielded to the prejudice of the parish church.”

The Charter itself now follows, with a literal English translation :—

(10.) “P’ Abb’e & Conventu de Cliva. R’. Archiep’is, Ep’is, Abb’ib’, Priorib’, Comitib’, Baronib’, Justic’, Vicecomitib’, Prepositis, ministris, & om’ib’ Ballivis, & fidelib’ suis ad quos, &c. salt’m. Supplicarunt nob’ dile’i nob’ in Xp’o David Abbas & Conventus Monast’ij B’e Marie de Cliva, vt cum nup’ sup’ quandam Capellam, ab olim sup’ ripam maris in man’io ip’or’ Abb’is & Conventus de Cliva, ad laudem & honorem b’e & glo’sæ Dei genitricis Marie, p’ p’decessores p’dc’or’ Abb’is & Conventus fundatam & fabricatam, vbi vnigenitus Dei & ip’ius gl’iose virginis Filius multiplicia miraculor’ insignia & infinita salutis remedia, p’ m’ita sue gl’iose genitricis, misericordit’ op’ari dignatus est, Clivus magnus ibidem ex continua pluviar’ habundancia & vehementi aquar’ decursu horribilit’ ceciderit, & cadendo eandem capellam, cum vniv’sis edificiis adjacentib’, sola dc’e gl’iose virginis imagine & altari ejusdem capelle illesis & intactis, p’ Dei virtutem vt credit’ mirabilit’ reservatis, ad t’ram funditus prostraverat, oppresserat, & quassaverat ; eaque de causa ijdem Abbas &

Conventus multiplici' depaup'ant' : Ipsi tamen quandam aliam Capellam, de novo, in quodam alio loco, infra p'cinctum man'ij sui p'dc'i, edificare & constru'e inceperunt, vt memoria dc'e b'e & gl'iose virginis ibidem a devotis Xp'i fidelib' in laude & ven'aco'e celebrit' h'eatur, antiquus vt solebat ; ad hoc laborib' et expensis suis in aliquo non parcantes : Set quia ad tam sumptuosi op'is compleco'em & consum'aco'em, ac ad alia on'a eidem Monast'io ab antiquo incumbencia supportand', facultates sue non suppetunt, absq' gr'a nr'a sp'ali h'ita in hac parte, velim', pietatis intuitu, cum eisdem n'ros sp'ales gr'am & favorem benignissime imp'tiri : Nos, p'missa intime considerantes, hac, ob reu'enciam dc'e genitricis Dei Marie, in quam totam spem n'ram post Deum semp' p'fixim', de gr'a n'ra sp'ali concessim', & licenciam dedim' p' nob' & heredib' n'ris, quantum in nob' est, p'fatis Abb'i & Conventui, q'd ip'i & successores sui imp'p'm h'eant vnu' m'catum infra p'cinctum man'ij sui p'dc'i singulis septimanis, die mercurij, tenend', & duas ferias ibidem singulis annis, videl't in festo Sc'i Jacobi Ap'li, aceciam in festo Exaltaco'is S'ce Crucis, & p' tres dies immediate sequentes duratur' tenend', cum om'ib' lib'tatib', jurib', & consuetudinib', ad hujusmodi m'catum & ferias p'tinentib' sive spectantib' ; nisi mercatum illud & ferie ille sint ad nocumentum vicinor' mercator' & vicinar' feriar'. Quare volum' & firmit' p'cipim' p' nob' & heredib' n'ris, quantum in nob' est, q'd p'dc'i Abbas & Conventus & successores sui h'eant imp'p'm vnu' m'catum ibidem singulis septimanis, die mercurij, & duas ferias ibidem singulis annis, videl't, vnam in festo Sc'i Jacobi Ap'li, & alt'am in festo Exaltaco'is S'ce Crucis, & p' tres dies immediate festa p'dc'a sequentes duratur' tenend', cum om'ib' lib'tatib', jurib', & lib'is consuetudinib' ad hujusmodi m'catum & ferias p'tinentib' sive spectantib' ; nisi m'catum

illud & ferie ille sint ad nocumentum vicinor' m'cator' & vicinar' feriar', sicut p'dic'm est : aliquo iure nob' competente ; aut nob', heredib', aut successorib' n'ris compet', seu quovis statuto, actu, ordinaco'e, siue restrictu antea fact' ; aut eo q'd exp'ssa mencio de aliquib' aliis donis siue concessionib' eisdem Abb'i & Conventui aut p'decessorib' suis, p' nos aut aliquem p'genitor' n'ror' quondam Regum Angl' ante hec tempora fact', in p'sentib' non existit ; non obstant'. In cujus, &c. T'. R'. apud Westm', xxij die Octobr'. P' l're de privato sigillo, & de dat' &c." *

Or thus in English :—

“ For the Abbot and Convent of Clive. The King to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Provosts, servants, and all his Bailiffs and liegemen, to whom, etc. health. Our beloved in Christ David the Abbot and the Convent of the Monastery of Blessed Mary of Clyve have petitioned us, that,—whereas lately upon a certain chapel, from ancient times founded and erected on the seashore in the manor of the same Abbot and Convent of Clive, by the predecessors of the aforesaid Abbot and Convent, to the praise and honour of Mary the blessed and glorious Mother of God, where the only-begotten Son of God and of the same glorious Virgin has vouchsafed of His mercy, through the merits of His own glorious Mother, to work divers kinds of notable miracles, and innumerable restorations of health, a large cliff in the same place, by reason of an incessant abundance of rain and mighty down-flood of waters, horribly fell, and in falling had entirely prostrated, cast down, and shaken to the ground the same chapel, with all the adjacent buildings, (the image alone of the said glorious Virgin and the altar

* Pat. 6 Edw. IV., p. 1, m. 2.

of the same chapel remaining uninjured and untouched, being miraculously preserved, as it is believed, by the assisting help of God,) and for that reason the same Abbot and Convent are in manifold ways impoverished : They have nevertheless begun to erect and build anew a certain other chapel in a certain other place within the precinct of their aforesaid manor, that the memory of the said blessed and glorious Virgin may in the same place by the devoted and faithful servants of Christ be honourably held in praise and veneration, as it used to be of old ; not in any wise sparing their labours and charges thereunto : But because their own means are not sufficient for the completion and full finishing of so expensive a work, and for sustaining the other burdens from old time lying on the same Monastery, apart from our special grace employed in this behalf,—we would be pleased, by consideration of piety, most liberally to communicate with the same our special grace and favour : We, taking the premises into our deepest consideration, out of the reverence for the said Mary mother of God, in whom after God we have ever placed our entire hope, of our special favour we have by this granted and given licence for us and our heirs, as far as in us is, to the aforesaid Abbot and Convent, that they and their successors for ever may have one market within the precinct of their aforesaid manor, to be held on Wednesday in every week, and two fairs to be held at the same place in every year, to wit, on the feast of S. James the Apostle, and also on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and to last for the three days next following, with all the liberties, rights, and customs, appertaining to or respecting a market and fairs of this kind ; unless that market and those fairs be to the injury of the neighbouring markets and the neighbouring fairs,

Wherefore we will and straitly charge, for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, that the aforesaid Abbot and Convent and their successors do have for ever one market to be held in the same place on Wednesday in every week, and two fairs in the same place in every year, to wit, one on the feast of S. James the Apostle, and the other on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and to last for three days next following the aforesaid feasts, with all the liberties, rights, and free customs appertaining to or respecting a market and fairs of this kind ; unless that market and those fairs be to the injury of the neighbouring markets and the neighbouring fairs, as is aforesaid : any right contrariwise suing to us ; or contrariwise suing to us, our heirs, or our successors, either any statute, act, rule, or restriction before made ; or because that express mention regarding any other gifts or grants to the same Abbot and Convent, or to their predecessors, by us or any one of our progenitors, formerly Kings of England, hitherto made, is not at present extant ; notwithstanding. In testimony whereof, etc. Witness, the King, at Westminster, the twenty-second day of October.”

For the seven documents which now follow, (No. 11 to No. 17 incl.) and which not unpleasantly contrast with the royal and noble Charters already given, I am indebted to the kind courtesy of the President, Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., to whom I desire to offer my best acknowledgments. They long found a home among the family papers at Nettlecombe, but, with a rare liberality which cannot be too highly appreciated, have lately been presented to the British Museum, where they will be placed among what are technically called the “Additional Charters.” They have not yet been furnished with numbers of reference ; but in the copies which follow I have taken very great care to put

the Society in possession of minutely accurate transcripts, whereby a long or troublesome search for the originals among the multitudinous treasures of our vast Repository is rendered less necessary for any future investigator.

I give them in what I believe to be their chronological order, though only four of them are dated. In this and similar cases a conjecture must be taken from the style of the writing, which varied much at different periods, and generally presents sufficient indications for enabling us to arrive at considerable accuracy in the determination of the age of any document submitted to us.

The first appears, from such internal evidence, to have been written in the reign of Edward I. It is as follows:—

(11.) “Radulf’ fil’ Will’ de piscar’ cu’ p’t’ ap’d La’gacre descēd’nt’ de riuulo de Clyue.

“Om’ib’ filiis S’ce Matris Eccl’ie Radulfus fil’ Will’mi de Wydecume salt’. Sciatis me concessisse, & dedisse, & p’senti carta confirmasse, p’ sal’tē anime mee, & Yolente sponse mee, & o’ium an’cessor’ & heredu’ n’ror’, Deo & S’ce Marie & Monachis de Cliue, in pura’ & p’petua’ elemosina’, illam piscaria’ cu’ p’tine’tiis suis, que p’ximior est p’to meo de La’gacre, & p’xima riuulo q’ descendit de Cliue. Hanc au’ piscaria’ dedi eis h’ndam & tenenda’, sicut aliq’a elemosina q’eti’ & lib’ius teneri potest. Et quicq’ seruicii debet Regi ut ulli alii p’ p’dicta piscaria, ego & heredes mei faciem’ & aq’etabim’. Et ip’am piscaria’ p’dictis monach’ warantizabim’ in p’petuu’, cont^a om’s ho’ies. Hiis testib’, Ric’dō de Cumbe, Will’o fil’ Heuerardi, Will’o de Sandhelle, Ada de Wacheford, Alexandro de la Bie, Ada de Fernacre, Joh’e fil’ Ric’di, Rob’tō de Sandhelle, Gilleb’tō Gymel, & multis aliis.”

Which in English is as follows :—

“To all the sons of Holy Mother Church Ralph the son

of William de Wydecume wisheth health. Know ye that I have granted, and given, and by the present charter have confirmed, for the health of my soul, and of Yolente my wife, and of all our ancestors and our heirs, to God and S. Mary and the monks of Clyve, for a pure and perpetual alms, that fishery with its appurtenances, which is nearer to my meadow of Langacre, and nearest to the little stream that descendeth from Clive. This fishery I have given to them to be had and holden, as any alms may be quietly and freely held. And what service soever is due to the King as to any one else in respect of the aforesaid fishery, I and my heirs will do and discharge it. And the same fishery we will warrant to the aforesaid monks for ever against all men. These are witnesses : Richard de Cumbe, William son of Everard, William de Sandhelle, Ada de Wacheford, Alexander de la Bie, Ada de Fernacre, John son of Richard, Robert de Sandhelle, Gilbert Gymel, and many others."

A triangular seal of green wax remains pendant, in tolerable condition. The impression, a lion passant to the right; under him what seems to be a rude representation of water. For legend, ✠ SIGILLVM RA * * * VCEL FILII WILL."

The next is a bond of Henry Billing to the Abbot and Convent of Clyve in two shillings a-year, to be paid at Brampton. The instrument bears date the sixteenth year of Edw. II., Nov. 3, 1322. No seal remains :—

(12.) "Obligac'o H. Bylly'g de duob' sol' ann' redd' domui de Clyue deb'.

"Om'ib' Xp'i fidelib' ad quos presens scriptu' p'u'en'it Henric' Billing salute' in D'no. Nou'itis me teneri, & per presens scriptu' obligatu' esse, Abbati & Conuentui de Clyue & eor' successorib' inp'petuu', in duob' solidis

annui redditus, solue'dis eisdē uel eor' p'po'ito vel Balli'o de Brampton', ap'd Brampton, ad quatuor anni t'minos principales, eq's porc'onib'. Ad qua' quide' soluc'onem bene & fideliter faciendā obligo me & om'es t'ras & tene-me'ta mea de Brampton', in quoru'cumq' man' deuen'int districc'oni p'dcor' Abbatis & Co'uent' & eor' successoru'. In cui' rei testimoniu' sigillu' meu' apposui. Hiis testib', Joh'ne Fayrman, Will'o Sturel, Will'o Fabro, Ricardo Lovering, Joh'ne Thurgod, & aliis. Dat' ap'd Brampton', die mercurij p'xima post festu' Omniu' Scor'. Anno regni Reg' Edwardi filij Reg' Edwardi sextodeci'o."

John de Berewyk, bailiff of Lord William de Hastyn-ges, in the county of Somerset, acknowledges the receipt of forty shillings from Ralph Fitz Urse and his tenants. The Lord de Hastyn-ges was, I presume, the King's steward of that name :—

(13.) "Pateat uniu'sis p' p'sentes, q'd ego Joh's de Berewyk', ball's d'ni Will'i de Hastyn-ges, in Com' Somers', fateor me recepisse de Rad'o filio Vrsi & tene'tib' suis de Wilitone, p' dimid' feod' milit', quadrag'ita solid', quos leuare feci p' bre' d'ni Regis ad opus d'ni Joh's de Hastin-ges, de scutagio sibi co'cesso de ten'tib' suis p' duab' guerris d'ni Regis in Skoc', videl' anno r. R. E. xxvij^{uo}, & anno E. xxxi^{mo}; de quib' quid'm quadraginta solid' dc'm Rad'm & tenentes suos u'sus p'dc'um d'nm Joh'm aquie-tabo p' p'sentes, & indempnu' co'suabo. In cuius rei tes-timon' huic acquietanc' sigillu' meu' apposui. Dat' apud Berewyk', die mercurij, in festo Sc'i Laure'c' Martiris, anno regni Regis Edwardi tricesimo quarto."

This, though itself ancient, is evidently a copy of an older document. It is on paper, and the seal of the worthy bailiff is of course wanting.

The following is a grant by the Abbot of Clyve to John

Bruer the younger and Lucy his wife, of lands and tene-ments in Zistecote, Lynegerscote, and Nonemanyslond, in consideration of a yearly payment of sixteen shillings and nine pence :—

(14.) “No’ de com’un’ pastur’ i’ Len’scote.

“Om’ib’ Xp’i fidelib’ ad quos p’sens sc’ptu’ p’uen’it, Jacobus Dei Gra’ Abbas Mon’ de Clyua & eiusd’m loci Conuent’, salutem in D’no sempit’nam. Nou’itis nos t’didisse, concessisse, et hoc p’senti sc’pto n’ro confirmasse, p’ nob’ & successorib’ n’ris, Joh’ni Bruero juniore & Lucie ux’ sue, om’es t’ras & ten’ cu’ co’i pastur^a ap’d Zistecote eisd’m t’r’ & ten’ p’tinenti, que qued^am t’r’ & ten’ cu’ co’i pastur’ Robert’ Peu’el quond^am h’uit & tenuit in Lynegerscote, inf^a man’iu’ n’rm de Clyue. Dedim’, t’, & concessim’ eisd’m Joh’i & Lucie ux’ sue sex acras t’r’ de dominio n’ro ap’d Nonemanyslond, p’x’ iacentes iux^a Lesforchis ibid’m, v’sus austru’ & orient’. H’end’ & tenend’ om’ia p’dc’a t’r’ & ten’, cu’ co’i pastur’ p’dc’a, vna cu’ p’dc’is sex acr’ t’r’ p’dc’is, Joh’i & Lucie ux’i sue ad t’m vite eor’, aut vni’ eor’ diucius viuent’, de nob’ & successor’ n’ris, lib’e, quiete, bene, & in pace. Reddendo inde annuat’ nob’ & successor’ n’ris p’dc’i Joh’ns & Lucia ux’ sua, ad t’m vite eor’, aut vni’ eor’ diucius viuentis, sexdecim solidos & noue’ denar’ sterlingor’, ad q^atuor anni t’ios p’ncipal’, equis porcio’ib’, & D’no de Wachusetford annuat’ tres solidos & tres denar’, in f’o Sc’i Mich’is, p’ s’uiciis, h’ietis, releuiis, exaccio’ib’, & quibuscu’q’ aliis seclar’ demandis, exceptis duab’ sectis ad cur’ n’ram de Clyve p’ annu’, & hoc p’ racionabilem som’onicio’em. Et nos v^o p’dc’i Abb’ & Conuent’ & successor’s n’ri om’ia p’dc’a t’r’ & ten’ cu’ com’un’ pastur’ p’dc’a sim’l cu’ p’dc’is sex acr’ t’r’ p’dc’is Joh’i & Lucie ux’i sue, ad t’m vite eor’, aut vni’ eor’ diucius viuent’, cont^a om’es mortal’ warantizabim’, ac-quietabim’, & in form^a p’dc’a defendem’. In cui’ rei testi-

moniu' huic p'senti sc'pto indentato sigill' n'ra alt'nati' apposum'. Hiis testib', Will'mo Hamelyn, Roberto Martyn, Joh'ne Sandhull, Andr' Drakewill', Rob'to Damarle, et aliis. Dat' ap'd Clyue, die d'nica p'x' post f'm Sc'i Benedicti Abb'is, anno Regni' Regis Edward' t'cij post Conquest' q^adragesimo p'mo."

Most unfortunately the seals are wanting. The document, however, is of special interest to the historian of this House, as it furnishes the name of another Abbot previously unknown. To the list already published we have therefore the satisfaction of adding our second contribution in James, Abbot of Clyve, 1367-8.

On this account a translation may probably be interesting, and is now presented :—

"To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall arrive, James, by the grace of God Abbot of the Monastery of Clyve, and of the Convent of the same place, health eternal in the Lord. Know ye, that we have delivered, granted, and by this our present writing have confirmed, for ourselves and our successors, to John Bruer the younger and Lucy his wife, all the lands and tenements at Zistecote, with the common pasture appertaining to the same lands and tenements; which certain lands and tenements with common pasture Robert Peverel formerly possessed and held in Lynegerscote, within our manor of Clyve. We have also given and granted to the same John and Lucy his wife, six acres of land of our demesne at Nonemanyslond, next adjacent to Les forchis in the same place, towards the south and east. All the lands and tenements aforesaid to be had and holden, with common pasture aforesaid, together with the aforesaid six acres of land aforesaid, by John and Lucy his wife, to the end of their life, or of the one of them surviving, of us and our

successors, freely, quietly, well, and in peace. The said John and Lucy his wife to pay from thence year by year to us and our successors, to the end of their life, or of the one of them surviving, sixteen shillings and ninepence of sterling money, at the four principal terms of the year, by equal portions ; and to the Lord of Wachtetford, year by year, three shillings and three pence, on the feast of S. Michael, for services, heriots, reliefs, exactions, and all other secular demands whatsoever ; saving two suits at our court of Clyve yearly, and this by the auditor's summons. And we the aforesaid Abbot and Convent and our successors will warrant, and discharge, and in form aforesaid will defend, against all men, all the aforesaid lands and tenements, with common pasture aforesaid, together with the aforesaid six acres of land, to the aforesaid John and Lucy his wife, to the end of their life, or of the one of them surviving. In witness whereof we have one after the other affixed our seals to this present indenture. These are witnesses : William Hamelyn, Robert Martyn, John Sandhull, Andrew Drake-will, Robert Damarle, and others. Given at Clyve, on Sunday next after the feast of S. Benedict, Abbot, in the year of the reign of King Edward III. after the Conquest forty-first."

We have next a grant by Nicholas Orchard to Laurence de Lomene, Vicar of the Church of Clyve, and to Ralph Knap of Milverton, of all his lands with their various appurtenances at Combe in the parish of Stogumber, and in Milverton and Taunton. It concludes with the usual warranty, assurance of quiet possession, &c. A seal of brown wax remains, having the impress of a shield of arms, but the bearings and legend are undecypherable :—

(15.) "Sciant p'sentes & fut'i, q'd ego, Nich'us Orchard',

dedi, concessi, & hac p'senti carta mea confirmaui, Laurencio de Lomene, Vicario Eccl'ie de Clyue, et Rad'o Knap de Milu'ton', om'ia terras & ten', redditus & s'uicia, & reu'siones, cu' colu'bar', molend', fullon' & moleratic', cu' eor' sect' & curs' aq', & cu' bosc', & o'ib' aliis p'tin' suis que habui atte Combe in p'ochia de Stokegomm', & in Milu'ton', & in Taunton'. Hend' & tenend' o'ia p'dc'a terras & ten', reddit' & s'uic', & reu'siones, cu' colu'bar', molend', boscis, & p'tin' suis p'fatis Laurencio & Rad'o, h'edib' & assign' suis, libere, quiete, b'n', & in pace, iure h'editar' imp'petuu', de capit' d'nis feodor' illor' p' reddit' & s'uicia inde debita & de iure consueta. Et ego p'fatus Nich'us & h'edes mei om'ia p'dc'a terras & ten', reddit', & s'uicia, & rev'siones, cu' colu'bar', molend', bosc', & p'tin' suis p'fatis Laurencio & Rad'o h'edib' & assign' suis cont^a om'es gentes warrantizabim', acquietabim', & defendem' imp'p'm. In cui' rei testimon' huic p'senti carte mee sigillum meu' apposui. Hiis testib', Joh'ne Carre, Ric'o Haretrowe, Ric'o Tribel, Rad'o de Poulishele, & aliis. Dat' ap'd Combe, die Lune p'x' post festu' S'ci Jacobi Ap'li anno regn' Reg' Edwardi t'cii a Conquestu q^adragesimo p'mo."

The next in order, without a seal and undated, but apparently written early in the reign of King Edward the Third, is precisely similar to that printed in *Dugdale*, No. VI. The original, however, furnishes us with the names of the attesting witnesses, to some of whom we have been already introduced :—

(16.) "Hiis testib', D'no Joh'e de Reyni, Will'o filio Euerardi, Ada de Fernacre, Will'o de Treb'ge, Rad' Le Tort, Walt'o Fillel, & multis aliis."

The last of the Nettlecombe Charters is one of considerable interest, as well for the minute detail of the boun-

daries of the land given, as for the stipulations which are annexed to the gift. The latter, however, are not uncommon in ancient instruments. To facilitate its due comprehension, the original is now accompanied by a literal translation. Its age I consider to be about that of Richard II. or Henry IV. :—

(17.) “ Abbas de Cleve cu’ aqua de Heyn’.

“ Sciant p’ntes & futuri, q’ ego, Rob’t’, filius Hugonis de Wude, dedi, & conc’, & hac p’nti carta mea confirmavi, Deo & S’ce Marie & Mo^achis de Clyua, pro salute anime mee, & o’im an’cessor’, & parentu’, & hered’ meor’, in puram & p’petuam elemosinam, q^andam p’tem t’re mee; scilicet p’ has diuisas :—quar’ prima incipit ad diuisam de Chidesle subt’ Le Corde, & tendit vsq’ in spinam que diuidit t’ram illam, & t’ram qua’ ip’i mo^achi h’ent de feodo meo, de dono Geroldi filii Baldwyny; & inde v’sus occidentem, vsq’ in vrlam bosci de Macherith; & inde v’sus aquilonem, p’ fossatu’ q’ p’dicti monachi fod’nt int’ terram illam & t’ram Geroldy; & inde p’ id’m fossatu’ v’sus orientem, vsq’ in diuisas t’re de Weletuna; & inde v’sus austru’, p’ id’m fossatum, vsq’ in diuisas t’r’ de Chidesle; & inde v’sus occidentem vsq’ in p’dicta’ spinam. Et q’cquid h’ui int’ p’dc’as diuisas, cu’ p’dictis fossatis, dedi p’fatis mo’chis, cu’ o’ib’ p’tin’ suis. Et p’t’ea dedi eis co’munione’ pastur’ in o’i t’ra mea de Wude, excepto blado & p’to a Kl’ Ap’lis vsq’ du’ falcetur, & colligatur, ad trecentas oues, & ad sexaginta a’ialia, & ad sexaginta porcos, cu’ lib’is introitib’, & exitib’, & cu’ om’ib’ lib’tatib’, & lib’is consuetudinib’, & aesiametis, in o’ib’ reb’ & locis eid’m ville p’tinentib’. Hec o’ia p’fata tenementa & pasturam dedi p’fatis mo’chis, cu’ o’ib’ p’tinenciis suis, lib’a, & quieta a me & h’edib’ meis, & soluta ab om’i t’reno s’uic’o & sec’lari exaccione in-p’petuu’. Et q’cquid debetur inde regi vel ulli alii ho’i, ego

& h'edes mei adq'etabimus & warantisabim' p' n'rm aliud tenementu' p'fatis mo^achis, contra om's ho'ies & om's feminas. Et sciendu', q' p'fati mo^achi in obitu meo facient seruiciu' pro me sicud p' uno mo^acho ; & si m' placu'it, corpus meu' recipie't ad sepulturam. Hiis t', Rob'to filio Ursy, Joh'e filio ejus, & aliis."

"Know men present and future, that I, Robert, son of Hugh de Wude, have given, and granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed, to God and S. Mary, and the Monks of Clyve, for the health of my soul, and of all my ancestors, and parents, and heirs, for a pure and perpetual alms, a certain part of my land ; to wit, by these bounds : whereof the first beginneth at the bound of Chidesle under Le Corde, and extendeth as far as the thorn which boundeth that land, and the land which the same monks have of my fee, of the gift of Gerald the son of Baldwyn ; and from thence towards the west, as far as the edge of the wood of Macherith ; and from thence towards the north, by the ditch which the aforesaid monks have dug between that land and the land of Gerald ; and from thence by the same ditch towards the east, as far as the bounds of the land of Weletun ; and from thence towards the south, by the same ditch, as far as the bounds of the land of Chidesle ; and from thence towards the west, as far as the thorn aforesaid. And whatsoever I had within the aforesaid bounds, with the ditches aforesaid, I have given to the aforesaid monks, with all its appurtenances. And I have given to them in addition the right of common pasture in all my land of Wude, saving the corn and meadow land from the calends of April to the time that it is reaped and stacked, for three hundred sheep, and for sixty beasts, and for sixty swine, with free entrances and exits, and with all the liberties, and free cus-

toms, and easements, in all things and places pertaining to the same vill. All these aforesaid tenements and pasture I have given to the aforesaid monks, with all their appurtenances, free and quit of me and my heirs, and released from all land service and secular exaction for ever. And whatsoever is due from thence to the King or to any other man, I and my heirs will discharge and warrant it by our other tenement to the aforesaid monks against all men and all women. And be it known that the aforesaid monks at my decease shall do service for me as for a monk, and, if it shall please me, shall receive my corpse for burial. These are witnesses : Robert Fitz-Urse, John his son, and others."

With the following concludes my second division. It was written only two years previous to the Dissolution, and while the House was under the government of its last Abbot. For permission to copy it I am indebted, and offer my sincere thanks to, Thomas Warden, Esq., of Bardon, in whose office it has been, as he informs me, for upwards of sixty years. In addition to its intrinsic interest, it possesses a most valuable appendage, in an impression, which I believe to be unique, of the Common Seal of the Abbey. I shall revert to this presently with greater detail. The document follows in the meanwhile ; and I have added a translation of the Latin portion :—

(18.) "Nou'int vniu'si p' p'sentes, nos, Will'm Dovell, Abb'tem Domus siue Monasterij B'te Marie de Cliua, in Com' Som's, & eiusdem loci Conventus, teneri & firmiter obligari Joh'i Sydenh'm de Netilcombe in Com' p'dc'o, Gen'os, in quadringent' libris sterlingor', soluend' eidem Joh'i Sydenh'm, Executoribus, vel assign' suis; ad quam quid'm solucio'em bene & fidelit' faciend' obligamus nos & Successores n'ros firmit' p' p'sent'. In cuius Rei testio'm,

huic p'sent scripto n'ro Sigillu' n'rm Cov' loci n'ri p'dci apposum'. Dat' apud Cliuam p'dict, in Domo n'ra Capitular', vicesimo die Maij, anno Regni Regis Henrici octau i vicesimo septimo.

“ The condicion of this obligacion is suche, that yf the abouebounden Abbot and Covent and ther Successors of ther p'te well and trewlie obs'ue, p'frme, and kepe all and singler Couen'nttes*, graunttes, and agrementes of ther p'te, to be obs'uyd, p'frmyd, and kepte as be comprised in a paire of Indenturs made bytween the abouebonden Abbot & Covent of the one p'te, and the abouenamyde John Sydenh'm of the other p'te, beryng the date of this p'sent obligac'on, conc'nyng a lesse for t'me of yere of the ferme or grange called Legh, and other thynges in the p'ysshe of Olde Clyve in the saide Countie of Somr', as by the same Indenters more as large it may appere, that than this obligacon to be voyde, or elles to stond in his full strenght and vertue.”

The former portion reads in English as follows :—

“ Know all by the present writings, that we, William Dovell, Abbot of the House or Monastery of Blessed Mary of Clive, in the county of Somerset, and of the Convent of the same place, are held and firmly bound to John Sydenham of Nettlecombe, in the county aforesaid, Gentleman, in four hundred pounds of sterling money, to be paid to the same John Sydenham, his executors or assigns ; to the good and faithful execution of which payment we oblige ourselves and our successors firmly by

* The old English termination “es” is expressed in the MS. by a mark of contraction. I have thought it best to add the required letters to the words to which such mark is appended, in order to remove the ambiguity which might otherwise have arisen. The letters thus added are, however, given in italic ; and in all other respects the orthography of the original is scrupulously followed.



J. Cloghetti del.

*Common Seal, hitherto unpublished, of Cleeve, Cleeve,
Cleeve, or Cleeve Abbey, in the County of Somerset,
from an impression, believed to be unique, ap-
pended to an Agreement, dated May 20, 27, Hen.
VIII. in the possession of Thomas Warden, Esq.
Engraved for the Rev. Thomas Hugo's "Charters and
other Archives of Cleeve Abbey," Aug. 21, 1855.*

the present instrument. In witness whereof we have to this our present writing set our seal of our Conventual place aforesaid. Given at Clive aforesaid, in our Chapter House, the twentieth day of May, in the year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth twenty-seventh."

Down to the period of the Society's present meeting, no seal either of the Abbey or of any one of the Abbots has been published. I am in consequence extremely gratified in being able to present the archæological world with engravings of two very beautiful specimens of these hitherto inedited and most interesting memorials. The first is no less an acquisition than the Common Seal of the Abbey, an impression of which, believed to be unique, is appended to the instrument last recited.* It is of red wax, and, as will be perceived from the engraving, all but perfect. It represents, within a vesica, the Virgin and Holy Child under a canopy, with a diapered background; and below, under an arch, an Abbot on his knees. The whole is surrounded by the legend SIGILLVM COMMVNE [A]BBATHIE DE CLYVE. If I might hazard a conjecture respecting its age, I should say that it was executed from about the end of the thirteenth to the termination of the first half of the fourteenth century,—between 1290 and 1350. The second seal is that of Abbot David Juyner. He occurs

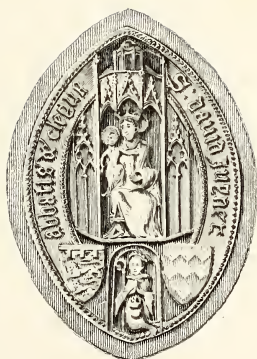
* I have scarcely need to congratulate the Society on this most interesting result of the Dunster Meeting. The fact itself speaks volumes for the excellence and advantage of such gatherings. All antiquaries are hereby put in possession of a treasure not hitherto known to exist, regarded on the spot with an interest unequal to its rightful claims, and at any time liable to be lost for ever. Had the Society done nothing else but furnish the opportunity of making such a discovery, its existence would not have been in vain. I must not forget to add that the representations which I am enabled to give of both the seals are of the first excellence for scrupulous fidelity, and that, as usual, the work of my friend Mr. Cleghorn leaves nothing to be desired.

from 1435 to 1466 ; and is the same ecclesiastic, it will be remembered, that re-erected the chapel destroyed by the fall of the cliff, and that obtained the licence for the market and fairs in aid of the cost incurred thereby. This impression also is believed to be unique, and was appended to a document of the period once in the possession of Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., but which is now mislaid and unable to be found. Happily a few casts were taken from it some years ago, one of which became the property of Mr. Laing, of Edinburgh. From this some others were taken, whereof that in my possession is the one which has furnished the artist with his model. Like its companion, it is in excellent condition, and, though smaller, has many points of general resemblance, as will be seen by comparison. The Virgin and Holy Child are here also under a canopy, and a kneeling Abbot below, on either side of whom is a shield, that on the right bearing the arms traditionally given to William de Romara the founder of the Abbey. The legend is

S: DAVID HUYNER abbatis de cleyua.

Our series of Charters (some of them, I ought to add, popularly but not quite technically, so called) has brought us down to the year 1535. For our third division of documents, comprising those which although not Charters are illustrative of our subject, it will of course be necessary to retrace our steps.

Much information respecting the Abbey will be found in the volumes published at various times under the direction of the Record Commissioners, to which I need only refer my reader. Notices of lands, etc., for example, may be seen in Rot. Hundred. vol. i. p. 69 ; vol. ii. pp. 121, 134. Plac. de quo War. pp. 108, 167 ; Abbrev. Plac. p. 194 ; Calend.



J. C.

Seal, hitherto unpublished, of David Jugner, Abbot
of Clive or Cleeve, 1435-1466, from a cast taken
from an impression, believed to be unique, ap-
pended to a Document of the period, formerly in
the possession of Sir W. G. Trevelyan, Bart.
Engraved for the Rev. Thomas Hugo's "Charters
and other Archives of Cleeve Abbey," Aug. 21, 1855.

Inquis. post mort. vol. ii., pp. 43, 132 ; vol. iii., p. 240 ; etc., etc. The amount of revenue about the year 1291, making a total temporality of £32 5s. 8d., is afforded by the Taxatio of Pope Nicholas IV., pp. 152b, 153b, 205b. The enumeration and value of the lands, etc., on the eve of the Dissolution, the latter amounting to £155 9s. 5d., may be found in the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Hen. VIII., vol. i., pp. 217, 218 ; and subsequently in the Comput. Ministr. Dom. Reg. from the Roll, 28 Hen. VIII., in the Augmentation Office, printed in *Dugdale*, Append. no. xv., p. 734. Various summonses of the Abbots to Parliament, loans, etc., both of which, though considered at the time a grievance, are a criterion of the rank which the Abbey enjoyed, are to be found in Parliamentary Writs; vol. i. p. 293, no. 20 ; p. 335, no. 19. Vol. ii. part ii., p. 88, no. 51 ; p. 379, no. 37 ; p. 384, no. 10 ; part iii., p. 690, etc. I do not think it necessary to reprint these and similar notices here, needing as they do very little or no translation, because they are already given to the world in volumes, which, though ponderous and necessarily expensive, are generally accessible in public libraries of any extent or pretension. A similar feeling has prevented my making these pages a mere transcript of the accounts of Leland, Dugdale, Tanner, Willis, Archer, Collinson, and other writers. It were an easy expedient, and one too often resorted to, to reprint unnecessarily, and for lack of original matter, what is without difficulty and far better acquired from the authorities themselves, so needlessly, not to say reprehensibly, transcribed. But this is a practice which I would most earnestly discountenance, both by precept and example. And my aim, therefore, all along has been solely to furnish either matter entirely new, or translations of

important published documents, which, without such an accompaniment, would be useless to many of the Society's members.

The *Harleian MS.* 433, among many other choice and precious papers, includes contemporary transcripts of several letters addressed by K. Richard III. to the Houses of the Cistercian Order in England and Wales; with regard among other matters to the foundation of Barnard's, or S. Bernard's, College, Oxford. Three of them furnish conclusive evidence of the rank of the Abbey, and of its being considered one of the chief Houses of the Cistercians in this country; for the king expressly mentions the Abbot of Clyff as one of those specially entrusted with the visitation of the Houses and the conservation of the rules of the Order. These hitherto unpublished documents, I may add, are equally interesting to the Oxford as to the Somersetshire Archæologist. I have carefully copied them from the MS., and scrupulously preserved their orthography. And I scarcely need draw my reader's attention to their importance and value, not only for the reasons stated above, but for the noble aspect which they exhibit of our language during the interesting period of the fifteenth century.

The matter of S. Bernard's College is thus introduced:—

(A.) “Thabbot of Stretford.

“Richard, &c. To oʀ trusty and welbeloued in God, Thabbotes* of oʀ Monast'yes of Bukfast, Beaulieu, Hayles, Rewlegh, and to all other of y^t religion wⁱⁿ this oʀ Roy^{me}, Whome vnto thise oʀ l'res shalbe shewed, greting. Forsemoeche as We vnderstande that oʀ right trusty & welbe-

* See note, page 56.

loued in God, Thabbot of o^r Monast'y of Stratford, hath ye Rule & guyding of yo^r ordre wthin this our said Roy^{me}, and specially of a Collage named Barnardes College, besides o^r Vniu'site of Oxford, which, as We vnd'stodde at o^r last being ther, proceeded right wele in buylding, We y^fore woll & strettly charge you, all & eu'y of you, y^t for no singuler loue or affeccion of any p'sone, of what condicion or degre soeu' he be, ye deliu'e or do to be deliu'ed your contribuc'ons or benyuolence g^runted amongst you, but onely to ye said Abbot, or to dompn' Rob't Hall, or dompn' Thomas Wynston, his assignes. And ou' y^t considered his goode & meritorious entent, that ye geue vnto him and ye same his assignes yo^r assistance and fauo^rs, in noo wise int'ructing nor troubling them or any of them, by meane of any surmyse or sinistre enfo^rmacion, by any p'sone maliciously made, touching Thabbot of Cisteux, hedhous of yo^r said Religion; acertanyng you y^t for there declaracion by ye said Abbot, nor any other in his name, was neu' sute made nor mater shewed vnto vs y^t in any wise shuld be p'iudiciall to ye said hedehouse of any of you. And y^t none of you p'sume or take vpon him to enfringe, adnulle, or disobeie suche power and auctorite conc'nyng ye wele & good Ruelles of yo^r said Religion, as is comitted to ye said Abbot of Stratford, and to Thabbotes of Founteyns, Woborn, & of Clyff; but y^t in eu'y thing ye be obeieng ye same as to yo^r duetes app'teigneth, as ye desire to stande in ye fauo^r of o^r grace. Youen, &c. the ij^{de} day of Decembre, a^o p'mo." *

Then there is a general commission, confirming a grant of almost absolute power :—

(B.) "Thabbotes of ye ordure of Cisteux.

* Harl. MS. 433, f. 125 b.

“Richard, &c. To all Thabbottes and their offic's of thordre of Cisteux wⁱⁿ this o^r Roy^{me}, and to all Maires, Shireffes, Escheato^rs, Baillieffes, Constables, and all other our offic's, true liegemen & subgiettes, hering or seing thise o^r l^res, greting. Forasmoche as o^r trusty & welbeloued in God, Hugh Abbot of Stratford, and Rob't Abbot of o^r Monast'y of Woburne, & Thabbot of o^r Monast'y of Clyff, Refo^rmato^rs and Visitours of all ye said ordre of Cisteux wⁱⁿ this o^r Roy^{me}, haue power, by vertue of an Actorite to them yeuen by ye holy Fader in God Thabbot of ye hede house of Cisteux, and by ye gen'all Chapitur of ye same ordre, to visite, refo^rme, punyssh and courecte alman'e of trespasssours, malefacto^rs, apostates, rebelles, & Rennegates out of their ordure, vndre profession of ye same, and all othere of ye same ordre suyng & keping any cure, or being in any suice w^t any other p'sone wⁱⁿ this o^r Roy^{me}, w^tout licence of ye said Abbottes their refo^rmato^rs. And y^t the same refo^rmato^rs may also refo^rme, correct, & adresse, aswele all misp'sons, vsurpacions, accrochementes, defaultes, & wronges, as any other vnlefull grauntes & charges by any Abbott or Abbottes of ye said ordre to any other p'sone* sp'uell' or temp'ell' before this tyme gr'unted, made, done, or suffred to be done, in noyaunce, p'iudice, and derogacion of ye said religion & ordre, contrary to ye statutes & ordyn^ances by all ye said religion for ye good rule y'of made & ordeyned. We y'fore straitly charge you, all & eu'y of you, y^t vnto ye said Abbotes of Stratford, Woburne, & Clyff, and eu'y of them, in execucion of their said auctorites in eu'y behalue, as is afore rehersed, ye be assisting, abeing, aiding, & supporting at all tymes, if ye by them or eu'y of them be required on our behalue

* “Or p'sones” is added, but a line is drawn across the words.

so to doo. And y^t ye neither resiste, no int'ructe them in y^t p'tie ; as ye woll aduoide o^r greuoux despleasur, and ye p'll which of ye contrarie may ensue. Youen, &c., at London, the ij^{de} day of Decembre, A^o p'mo." *

The next, besides its other points of interest connected with our subject, is a remarkable example of the inveterate and ever-growing dislike to the removal from England of money for the maintenance of foreign Houses:—

(C.) "To Thabbottes of Fountayns, Stratford, and Woburn, Refo^rmato^rs of that Religion wⁱⁿ this oure Roy^{me}, & to eu'y of yem.

"Right trusty and welbeloued in God, We grete you wele. Albeit now in late daies past, not oonely by yo^r assentes & oy' Faders of yo^r Religion wⁱⁿ this oure Roy^{me}, but also at ye desire & pleasur of ye famous prince of blissed memorie, our brother,† whome God assoill, it was condescended & agreed y^t all suche annuell contribucions as h'tofore hath ben by you & yem g^runted to ye hede house of Cisteux, which by a statut unto ye contrarie y^of made be vtt'ly forboden, shuld be besett & bestowed, by thou'sight of oure right trusty & welbeloued in God, Thabbot of oure Monast'y of Stratford, towardes & aboutes ye buylding of ye Collage called Bernardes College, besides oure Vniu'site of Oxonford, founded for Scolers of yo^r said Religion, thing full expedient & necessarie : Yet, nathelesse, it is shewed vnto vs, and to ye lordes of oure Counsell, y^t c'tain Faders of yo^r said Religion, not Remembring ye good entent and meritorious Werk, nor feering ye pynalte of ye said statut, as it semeth, priuatly & by colour, meoue and exhorte, asmoche as in yem is, as

* Harl. MS. 433, f. 126b.

† "brother" is a correction for "fader," which appears beneath.

it is said, that ye said money shuld be leueed and paid to ye vse of ye said hedehouse; Which, ye p'misses considered, ne shalbe suffred. And therfore* We woll & charge you, that, if ye shall knowe and p'ceyue any so disposed amongst you, ye do him or them to be refo'med & corrected. And y^t ye[†] faille so to do, as ye woll aduouide ye p'ill & paynalte of ye said statut, & our greuous displeasur. Youen &c. y^e xxv^{te} day of May." ‡

To the same purpose is the missive which follows:—

(D.) "Richard, &c. § To our trusty & right welbeloued in God, Thabbottes of the Monast'ies of Bukfast, Bioulieu, Clyve, Qvarr, Tourehill, Dunkeswell, Bukland, Wau'ley, Netley, Byndon', Newham', Tynterne, Kyngeswoode, Stanley, Flaxley, Tame, Sipton', Foord, Coxhale, Tiltthey, and oy', to whome these p'sentes shalbe shewed, greting. Forsomoche as it is shewed vnto vs || that oure right trusty & welbeloued in God, Thabbot of oure Monast'y of Stratford, hath by yo^r hoole & all assentes, and of oy' like Fadars of yo^r Religeon in this oure Roy^{me}, at yo^r gen'all Chapitur, thouersight of the buyldinges of Bernard College, besides oure Vniu'site of Oxonford, co'mitted vnto him, and vnderstande y^t w^t all effectuell diligence he entendeth in his p'sone to emplie & endeuoir ¶ him selff to

* The following then occurs in the original, but is cancelled: "by thaduice of oure derrest vncl the Duc of Gloucestre, Protector & Defendor of this oure Royme during or yong age,"

† "ne," I presume, is to be here supplied. ‡ Harl. MS. 433, f. 230.

§ "Edward &c." appears beneath, but is cancelled.

|| Then follows, though cancelled, "& our derrest Oncl the Duc of Gloucestre, protector of this oure Royme during oure yong age;"

¶ I request my philological reader to observe the transitive use of this word, as in the Ordinal, the Order of Confirmation, and the Collect for the second Sunday after Easter. Another very interesting instance is furnished by a letter from Edmund Whalley, Abbot of S. Mary's at York, 1521-1530, to Cardinal Wolsey. Cott. MS. Cleop. E. iv. f. 46.

ye finall & p'fite conclusion of y^e same : We, considering his laudable purpose in y^t behalue, and y^t the said Werke is right expedient & meritorious, desire y^rfore & exorte you & eu'y of you to shewe youre selff benyuolent & aiding to ye same entent, as to yo^r honeur & duete app'teyneth; and y^t aboute ye yerely contribucion of eu'y of you & oy' Faders abouesaid g^runted to ye said buydynges, ye woll shewe your selff of suche towardnesse & benyuolence as may be thought condigne w^t youre worship & promotion; and to graunt the rather at oure instaunce suche a resonable sum'e of redy money, as may encourage oy' like Faders forto shewe yem selff of ye same. And suche of you as haue of yo^r good disposicion & lib'te graunted c'tain money, as it appereth vnder yo^r seales, Wee desire you to see the hasty contentacion y^rof: and other of you y^t as yet ne haue conformed nor shewed you of y^t towardnesse & disposicion, We desire you also and eu'y of you w^t all h'tynes to applie you y^runto, as ye tendre theeffect of ye p'misses, and to do vs singuler pleasur. And y^t by o^r welbeloued in God, Damp' Rob't Halle yis berer, or any oy' by o^r said Abbot appoynted, We may by youre writinges be c'tified of y^e c'tain sum'e y^t ye so shall geue or graunt, whome We haue com'aunded to shewe vnto you oure pleasur in y^e said case. Wherin ye will geue vnto him credence, and applie yo^r vttly for yo^r parties in y^t behalue, as it apperet. Ou' y^t charging all man' oure offic's, liegemen, & subiettes, forto geue from tyme to tyme vnto ye said Damp' Rob't, or other as aboute is said, their aides, fauo^rs, & assistences, in all thinges con-c'nyng ye p'misses, as they desire to do vs singuller pleasur, and eschewe the contrarie. Youen &c. y^e xxiiijth day of May, A^o primo." *

* Harl. MS., 433, f. 230b.

And the last of the series, although only a portion of the letter, has evident respect to the foundation already referred to :—

(E.) “ Edward,* &c. To oʳ trusty & welbeloued in God, Thabbotes of the Monast'ies of Hayles, Rewley, Thame, Bittillesden, Brewern, Bordesley, Pipwell, Mirauall, Combe, Wardone, Woborn, Sawere, Kirkestede, Riviſby, Louth, P'ke, Fountayns, Mewx, Cristall, Fournes, Calder, Whallaye, Salley, Roche, Holmes, Newmynstre, Jaruais, Biland, Ryevax, Cumbermer, Vawdi, Dieuleucres, Hilton, Garadon, Rufford, Crokeſten, Dore, Variatt, Stondeley, and all oy', aswele in Walyes as in Englnđ, greting. For asmoche as it is shewed vnto vs, vt antea,— And do vs singuler pleasur. Geving ou' this playne credence vnto ye said Abbot of Stratford in y^t he shall shewe you oure desire for ye vtter p'foʳmyng of ye same: So y^t by y^r writinges and by him we may be c'tified of yoʳ singuler abilites & h'tynesse in y^t behalue. Youen &c. y^e xxiiij^{te} day of May, A^o primo.” †

It may not be amiss to add that S. Bernard's College was founded for student monks of the Cistertian Order in 1436; and that, after falling into the King's hands at the Dissolution, and being given to the Dean and Chapter of Christchurch, it was purchased by the great and good Sir Thomas White, Alderman of London, in 1555, and re-built and endowed by him two years afterwards, under the name, which it still bears, of the College of S. John Baptist.

* In these letters, which were originally written during the eleven weeks of the reign of Edward V., the name of his successor, by whom they were issued, is substituted. This alteration has been unintentionally forgotten by the scribe in the present instance; but I think it better to adhere to the MS. as it stands, and to explain the discrepancy in this note. I have given the letters in the order of their sequence in the volume, but in strict chronological arrangement they would probably stand thus :—D, E, C, B, A.

† Harl. MS. 433, f. 230b.

Thus in piety and honour Cleeve Abbey continued to flourish for several hundred years, and to fulfil the great purposes for which it was founded. Its walls, still lovely in decay, re-echoed almost hourly with the prayers and praises of Christian men, and typified in their beauty and repose the majesty and perfection as well as the holiness and peace of Heaven. It was one of those great humanizers which alone for centuries availed to rescue European society from the savage influences which otherwise would have ruled supreme. It was Church, college, guesthouse, school, refuge, infirmary, hospital and inn, combined and in kindly union—a nucleus of civilization—a centre of security, sociability, and noble hospitality—all graced and glorified by a sacred light which cast its bright beams over surrounding regions, sunk but for it in a long and dark night of ferocity, tyranny and crime. Hence went the influence forth, which curbed the strong, raised the degraded, vindicated the oppressed, and coerced the lawless. Here the doors were ever open, in agreement with the inscription on its stately gatehouse, and all ranks, from the sovereign to the beggar, found a welcome within their pale. Here, and in similar Houses, dwelt the best, the holiest, and the wisest of the day—the most profound of scholars, the most skilful of builders, the most expert of artificers, the most generous of landlords, the most princely of patrons, the most hospitable of hosts. And their presence and beautiful home, in places and during ages in which there was no middle class, and naught else but themselves between the lord of the soil and his subject vassal, was the point at which all met upon common ground—at which the great man thought not of his greatness, nor the humble man of his humility, but recognized a bond, closer and more

sacred than aught beside, in religious communion and Christian brotherhood.

Time went on. The aspect of society changed; and the hour and power of darkness at length arrived. It does not fall, I am aware, within the bounds of my province to detail the successive steps of that aggression whereby a period was at length put to an Institution, wondrously adapted to the necessities of the ages in which it did its work, and meriting, even for the sake of ancient service, to say nothing of its sacred origin, very different treatment from that which it received. The peculiarities of the times, however, were inimical to it. The basest passions which can tyrannize over our nature were then in their full career of cruelty and crime; and the accompanying pretence of religious obligation only served to make the cruelty more heartless, and the crime more nauseous and abominable. It must not be supposed for a single moment that religion and morality had anything whatever to do with the suppression of Cleeve Abbey. The brutal tyrant who sanctioned, the greedy courtiers who encouraged, and the base tools who perpetrated that atrocious work, preclude any such a fancy. Not piety, but pelf, was the motive; and the master principle was not the glory of God, but the gratification of the most loathsome lusts which can degrade mankind. Commissioners came down, having prejudged the cause which they pretended to try,—the willing agents of unscrupulous villany. Returns were made, wherein we know not which to detest the most, the fawning adulation, the hypocritical affectation of regret, or the real and true spirit of wrong and robbery, which all the studied duplicity of the actors did not avail to conceal. Differ from the religious opinions

of the sufferers as we may, and to these no reference has been intended in the previous remarks, one thing is certain. It was not their religious opinions which brought upon them the frown of disfavour, and at length the storm of persecution and destruction. It was their possessions and not their precepts, their rents and not their religion, their money and not their morality, which caused their fall.

The tyrant, like another of earlier date, first killed, and then took possession. We find, however, that soon afterwards a courtier was quite ready to appropriate the spoil, in the person of Robert Earl of Sussex. He was previously known as Robert Ratcliffe, baron and viscount Fitz-Walter; was created Earl of Sussex on the 28th December, 21st Hen. VIII., and in the 33rd of the same reign was made Lord High Chamberlain for life. He was one of the peers who presented the articles against Cardinal Wolsey, and subscribed the letter to the Pope, representing the certain loss of his supremacy unless he decided against Queen Katharine. Besides the Abbey of Cleeve, he obtained the College and Chantry of Attleburgh, in Norfolk, and died the following year, 1542.*

The original grant is abstracted in *Dugdale*, p. 731, note b, from the Originalia, 29 Hen. VIII., of which abstract the following is a translation :—

(F.) “The King on the 30th day of January granted to Robert Earl of Sussex, the reversion of the house and site of the late Abbey of Clyve, and all the messuages etc. in the parishes of Old Cliffe, London, Bylbroke, Wassheford, Hungerford, Golsyngcote, Roodwater, Leigh and

* See Banks’s “Dormant and Extinct Baronage,” 4to. Lond. 1809., vol. iii. p. 696.

Bynham, in the county of Somerset, the rectory of Old Clyve excepted, to be held by him and the heirs male of his own body." *

Four years afterwards, the grant was repeated. It also is unpublished, but similar in many respects to that previously made, and is a long and painfully interesting document. It sets forth that the King has granted the various estates

(G.) "in consideratio'e boni, veri, fidelis, & acceptabilis s'uicij, quod Charissimus consanguineus n'r Rob'tus Comes Sussex iamdudum cont^a rebelles in partib' borialib' nob' impendebat." †

"In consideration," that is, "of the good, true, faithful, and acceptable service which our dearest cousin Robert Earl of Sussex a long time since expended in our behalf against the rebels in the northern parts."

Reference is here made to the insurrection in the North of England, commonly called the "Pilgrimage of Grace," which commenced in the autumn of 1536, and was not suppressed till the spring of the following year. It was created by the discontent which naturally prevailed among the people at the suppression of so many religious establishments, and was joined, among others, by the Archbishop of York, and the Lords Lumley, Nevil, Darcy, and Latimer. Most of the leaders and hundreds of their followers were executed. On a charge that the monks had assisted the agitators, a commission to investigate their conduct was appointed under the presidency of this Earl of Sussex; and history has not on record a more contemptible specimen of hypocrisy, tyranny, and outrage. It

* Orig. 29 Hen. VIII., Somers. rot. 28vo.

† Orig. 33 Hen. VIII., Somers. rot. 22do.

resulted, as was intended, in the murder of many of the ecclesiastics, and in the suppression of the greater Monasteries, which alone remained to enrich the spoiler. This was "the good, true, faithful, and" no doubt most "acceptable service," for which Cleeve Abbey—the "Flowery Valley" of peace—was the payment.

The lands are enumerated as situate

" . . in parochia seu hamelettio de Vet'i Clyff, London, Bylbroke, Wassheford, Hungreford, Golsingcote, Roode-water, Leygh, & Bynham', in d'co Com' n'ro Som's."

There is in this also a distinct and emphatic reservation of the Rectory :—

"Except' tamen semper ac nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris omnino reservat' tota R'toria de Olde Clyve."

These documents stand in mournful contrast to those which have previously been submitted. Sacrilege and tyranny have done their work. And silence and ruin have taken up their abode, where hitherto and for long resided the beauty of holiness and the voice of melody.

From this time the place has no history save that of a private estate. The narrative of the fortunes of its subsequent host of owners may possess a melancholy interest, and suggest very fearful subjects of thought. But the peculiar fascination and charm is gone; and my task, already, perhaps, too protracted, necessarily hastens to its completion.

It is indeed time, I feel, to draw to a conclusion. Yet have we pursued our way, not wearisomely, I trust, or without some little interest, over many a roll of time-hallowed parchment, and along many a line of strange and sometimes faded characters, and of obsolete phraseology, now presented in familiar type, distinctly punctuated, invested in the customary garb of our mother-tongue, and

thus reduced to language intelligible to all. I deeply regret that the limited space at my command has necessitated the absence of such a commentary, as that whose presence is so greatly to be desired. Much indeed might be said in elucidation of many of the documents. The lands which they convey, the terms with which they abound, the various rights, exemptions, and customs which they particularize, the principals who gave and received them, and the witnesses by whom they were attested, suggest matter to which a score of volumes would fail to do justice. Still, in spite of all, we have had a glimpse of ages second to none in our national history for interest and importance. We have seen with our mind's eye the kingly, venerable, and saintly forms whose names have been brought before us in connexion with these curious records of the past, these interesting memorials of a state of society of which modern England has no example, and but a meagre and for the most part a very inaccurate knowledge. The "Dominus Rex," the pious William de Romara, the princely Hubert de Burgh, "our venerable Father R. Bishop of Chichester, our Chancellor," "Lord E. Abbot of Rivaux," "Jocelyn prior of Spauding," "Reginald de Mohun, and Avis my wife," Ralph de Wydecume, "the Abbotes of Stratford, Founteyns, Woborn, & of Clyff," and William Marshall, E. of Pembroke, the benefactor of Tynterne, have been all but visible, together with the Nicholases, the Hughs, the Gilberts, the Ralphs, the Walters, and the Rogers, who have here been figuring before us. But now, however unwillingly, we must leave them, and allow them to retire once more into the gloom.

I trust it will not be necessary for me to defend myself against blame for too great a scrupulosity in presenting, as nearly as possible in their actual form, the documents now

for the first time committed to the press. But if so, I would shelter myself under the authority of Dr. Samuel Clarke, who, in his admirable preface to the *Iliad*, has triumphantly vindicated such reverent care : “*Levia quidem hæc,*” he says, “*et parvi forte, si per se spectentur, momenti. Sed ex elementis constant, ex principiis oriuntur, omnia. Et ex judicii consuetudine in rebus minutis adhibita, pendet sæpissime, etiam in maximis, vera atque accurata scientia.*” Should I, however, have wearied any one of my readers, I would suggest to him the vital interest of my subject, most dear as it is to the real antiquary, how distasteful soever to the general student. If, on the other hand, any gentleman should derive half the pleasure from my labour that I have done in searching for the materials of this and similar contributions, I am abundantly contented, and feel sure that he will neither disregard what is now offered to his acceptance, nor quarrel with me for the length of time that I have presumed to detain him. For both of us, with the old dramatist,

“Do loue these auncient Ruynes :

We neuer tread vpon them, but we set

Oure foote vpon some reuerend History.

And questionles, here in this open Court,

(Which now lies naked to the iniuries

Of stormy weather) some men lye Interr’d,

Lou’d the Church so well, and gaue so largely to’t,

They thought it should haue canopide their Bones

Till Doombes-day : But all things haue their end :

Churches and Citties, (which haue diseases like to men)

Must haue like death that we haue.” *

* Webster. “The Dutchesse of Malfy.” Act v., scene iii. 4to. Lond. 1623.

Old Cleeve Abbey.

BY THE REV. F. WARRE.

WHENEVER we see ancient works, we naturally wish to know something of their history, and of those by whom they were raised. Earth-works, the marks of primæval occupation—castles, bearing witness to the power and military habits of the mediæval nobility—ruins, proving by their importance and beauty the wealth and civilization of the clergy of former days—mines, shewing how early commerce led to maritime adventure ; and sepulchres of all dates, shewing that in all ages man has longed for posthumous fame, are to be found around us, and cannot fail to interest every thinking mind in the habits, manners, and history of those who have preceded us as inhabitants of this country.

But of all these objects of interest, none, perhaps, are more interesting than the remains of monastic establishments, such as Cleeve Abbey, evincing as they do, by the beauty of their details, a state of civilization far in advance of what might be expected in the dark ages ; and by their costliness and extent bearing witness to a zeal for

the honour of God far greater, I fear, than can generally be found in these more enlightened and practical, but less loving and devoted days. And yet, though deservedly interesting, monastic remains are, perhaps, of all ancient relics, those whose history is most completely forgotten in their own neighbourhood. Every castle has its own traditions of war, splendour, and suffering—every earth-work, even those of the earliest date, has its own tale of bloodshed or superstition. But the same peasant who will tell you that the Romans constructed this camp, and that the Danes were defeated at another, and knows the names and relates the deeds of valour or oppression of the warlike barons who built and inhabited each castle, will probably, when questioned as to the monastic ruins, however beautiful or extensive, only answer that he has heard that the monks lived there formerly, and, if pressed more closely, will speak of a dark figure, or more commonly of a white lady, who is said to haunt the ruins. It is not among the uneducated classes alone that this ignorance with regard to monastic institutions prevails. We have, generally speaking, very vague notions of what they really were. According to the bias of our minds, we look upon them either as the seats of piety and devotion, or as the habitation of laziness, luxury, and profligacy ; as the abodes of learning and religion, or as the strongholds of ignorance and superstition ; as the residences of men devoted to the service of God, or as dens polluted by monsters of hypocrisy, cruelty, and sensuality. Now, it needs but little thought to convince us that no one of these views is correct. Men have always been men, and good and bad have always been mixed together in human institutions—there have been good and bad monks and nuns, as there have been good and bad members of every other profession. Nor are we

competent judges of the good or evil of monastic institutions, unless we take into consideration the circumstances of the times in which they existed ; for it may frequently be, as I believe it to have been in this case, that what would have been worse than useless in modern days was peculiarly adapted to the circumstances and wants of an earlier period. Nor should we forget that “the evil that men do lives after them, and the good is oft interred with their bones,” especially when the witnesses on whose authority we form our opinions of them were, in most cases, personally interested in encouraging a hostile feeling towards them.

We learn then, from *Doomsday-Book*, that in the time of King Edward—that is, before the Norman Conquest—Earl Harold held Old Cleave, and shortly after the Conquest it was the property of the family of Romare, or De Romara, of whom William de Romara was created Earl of Lincoln, by King Stephen, in the year 1141. The total defeat of the Saxons at Hastings, together with the death of Harold and his brothers, inflicted so fatal a stroke on the power of England, that we are in the habit of supposing that the conquest was then finally completed, and that the Normans from that hour became undisputed masters of the island ; but this was certainly not the case. The Saxons, though worsted on all sides, were not conquered. At Hastings, in the Isle of Ely, in Northumberland, and elsewhere, they maintained a desperate, though unavailing, resistance. The sons of Harold invaded this very coast of Somerset, in the reign of William Rufus ; and a modern historian holds that the bands of outlaws who infested the forests in all parts of England were not robbers, but desperate men, who carried on a national warfare against the invaders, even as late as the beginning

of the reign of Henry III. Under these circumstances, the life of a great Norman Baron, like William Moion, or De Mohun, at Dunster, settled soon after the Conquest in a remote and wild district, and one in which the family of Godwin had held great possessions, must have been one of constant warfare. Every act of power on his part would be resented as an usurpation, and desperately resisted. Such a state of things could produce but one effect ; the ruling party became tyrants of the worst description—the ruled, sullen and obstinate, and ready, when occasion offered, to retaliate on their oppressors the sufferings they had undergone.

That this was the case with the English in the reign of Stephen, the *Saxon Chronicle* informs us, in the following words, as translated by Ingram :—

“ They (that is, the Norman nobles) cruelly oppressed the wretched men of the land with castle works, and when the castles were made they filled them with devils and evil men ; then took they those whom they supposed to have any goods, both by night and day, men and women, and threw them into prison for their gold and silver, and inflicted on them unutterable tortures, for never were any martyrs so tortured as they were ; some they hanged up by the feet, and smoked them with foul smoke, and some by the thumbs or by the head, and hung coats of mail on their feet. They tyed knotted strings about their heads, and twisted them till the pain went to the brains ; they put them into dungeons, wherein were snakes and toads, and so destroyed them ; some they placed in a crucet-house, that is in a chest that is short and narrow and not deep, wherein they put sharp stones, and so thrust the man therein, that they broke all his limbs. In many of the castles were things loathsome and grim called ‘ Sachenteges,’ of

which two or three men had enough to bear one. It was thus made: that is, fastened to a beam, and they placed a sharp iron collar about the man's throat and neck, so that he could in no direction either sit, or lie, or sleep, but bear all that iron. Many thousands they wore out with hunger. I neither can, nor may I, tell all the wounds and all the pains they inflicted on wretched men in this land. This lasted the 19 winters, while Stephen was King; and it grew continually worse and worse. They constantly laid guilds on the towns, and called it 'tenserie'; and when the wretched men had no more to give, they plundered and burnt all the towns, that well thou mightest go a whole day's journey and never shouldest thou find a man sitting in a town, nor the land tilled. Then was corn dear, and flesh and cheese, and butter, for none there was in the land; wretched men starved for hunger; some had recourse to alms who were once rich men, and some fled out of the land; never yet was there more wretchedness in the land, nor ever did heathen men worse than they did, for after a time they spared neither church nor churchyard, but took all the goods that were therein, and then burned the church and all together. Neither did they spare a bishop's land, nor an abbot's, nor a priest's, but plundered both monk's and clerk's, and every man robbed another who could. If two or three men came riding to a town all the township fled, for they concluded them to be robbers. The bishops and learned men cursed them continually, but the effect thereof was nothing to them, for they were all accursed and forsworn and abandoned; to till the ground was to plough the sea; the earth bore no corn, for the land was all laid waste by such deeds; and they said openly that Christ slept and his Saints."

Such was the miserable oppression from which the Saxons,

both lay and clerical, suffered at the hands of these Norman tyrants in the reign of Stephen; nor does their state appear to have materially improved till the troublous times of Henry III. rendered it necessary for the leaders of both parties, more or less, to court popular favour. It was towards the close of this miserable period, about the year 1188, that William de Romare, youngest son, or, perhaps, nephew of the Earl of Lincoln, being religiously inclined, "for the health of the soul of King Richard, Henry his father, their ancestors and successors, as well as for the health of his own soul and the soul of Phillipa his wife, and for the souls of all their progenitors and posterity, founded in this, his manor of Cleeve, to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, a Monastery of Cistercian Monks, and bestowed thereon all his lands in Cleeve in pure and perpetuable alms, with all liberties, immunities, customs, and other appurtenances."

These Cistercian Monks, a branch of the great Benedictine order, who took their name from Cisteaux, or Cistercium, in the Bishopric of Chalons, in Burgundy, did not take up their abode in England till the year 1128, only 60 years before the foundation of Cleeve, and therefore probably had a larger proportion of foreigners among them than those orders which had taken root in this island at an earlier period. Hence they were more likely to exert a beneficial influence upon the Norman nobility than the parochial clergy, who had neither wealth nor power to give them weight with their military neighbours, or than a body of monks of Saxon descent, whose origin would have been enough to expose them to oppression and plunder from the hands of their foreign conquerors. Indeed when we find the name of Richard de Bret, no doubt a member of the neighbouring baronial house of Breto (notorious as having

produced one of the murderers of Thomas à Becket), early in the list of the Abbots of Cleeve, we may fairly conclude that this Abbey, founded by a great Norman noble, occupied by an order of monks in which the proportion of Normans was possibly greater than in most others, was one in which men of Norman blood and Norman connections formed the majority. And as the monks of the middle ages were the almost exclusive possessors of all the science and literature existing in those times, and also were far better and kinder landlords and masters than the feudal barons around them, nothing could have been better adapted to the wants of the times or more likely to alleviate the miseries of the lower classes, and at the same time induce a more just and lenient spirit into their conquerors, than such an establishment as that founded by Romara at Cleeve.

I have been able to discover but little of interest recorded of this Abbey, but that does not in any degree show that the good work of civilisation and conciliation did not prosper in their hands; indeed, it is rather a proof that it did, for it can hardly be that a body of men superior in learning and intelligence to their neighbours, possessed of great wealth, performing the duties of their profession with even ordinary propriety, in peace and quietness, through a long series of years, should fail of ameliorating the condition, both mental and bodily, of the wretched serfs and brutal soldiers by whom they were surrounded. The chief benefactors of the Abbey were William de Romara, the founder; Hubert de Burgh; Richard, Earl of Cornwall; Reginald de Mohun; and King Henry III.; all, it may be observed, Normans of the highest rank. According to the taxation of Pope Nicholas, the temporalities of this Abbey were in the diocese of Exeter, lands at Branton, the Manor

of Pochewell, the Manor of Treglaston, and that of Bruham in the diocese of Bath. We learn from *Tanner*, that shortly before the Reformation there were here 17 monks, who were endowed with £155 10s. 5½d. per annum, an income which, though it sounds but little to our ears, was in the reign of Henry VIII. a very considerable sum. The names of the Abbots of Cleeve, as given in *Dugdale*, are Henry, who occurs in 1297; Richard de Bret, elected in 1315; Robert de Clyve, elected 1321; John occurs in 1407; Leonard in 1416; William Seylake, confirmed 28th of September, 1419; John Stone professed obedience as Abbot 1st October, 1421; David Joiner, who occurs 1435, and again in 1463; John Paynter occurs in 1509; and William Dovell, who succeeded in 1510, and after the Dissolution had a pension of £26 13s. 4d. On the 30th of January in the 29th year of Henry VIII, the King granted to Robert Earl of Sussex the reversion of the house and site of Cleeve Abbey, with all the messuages belonging to it, in the parishes of Old Cleeve, London, Bylbrook, Washford, Hungerford, Golsinggate, Roadwater, Leigh, and Brynham, in the county of Somerset, except the rectory of Old Cleeve, to be held by him and his heirs male.

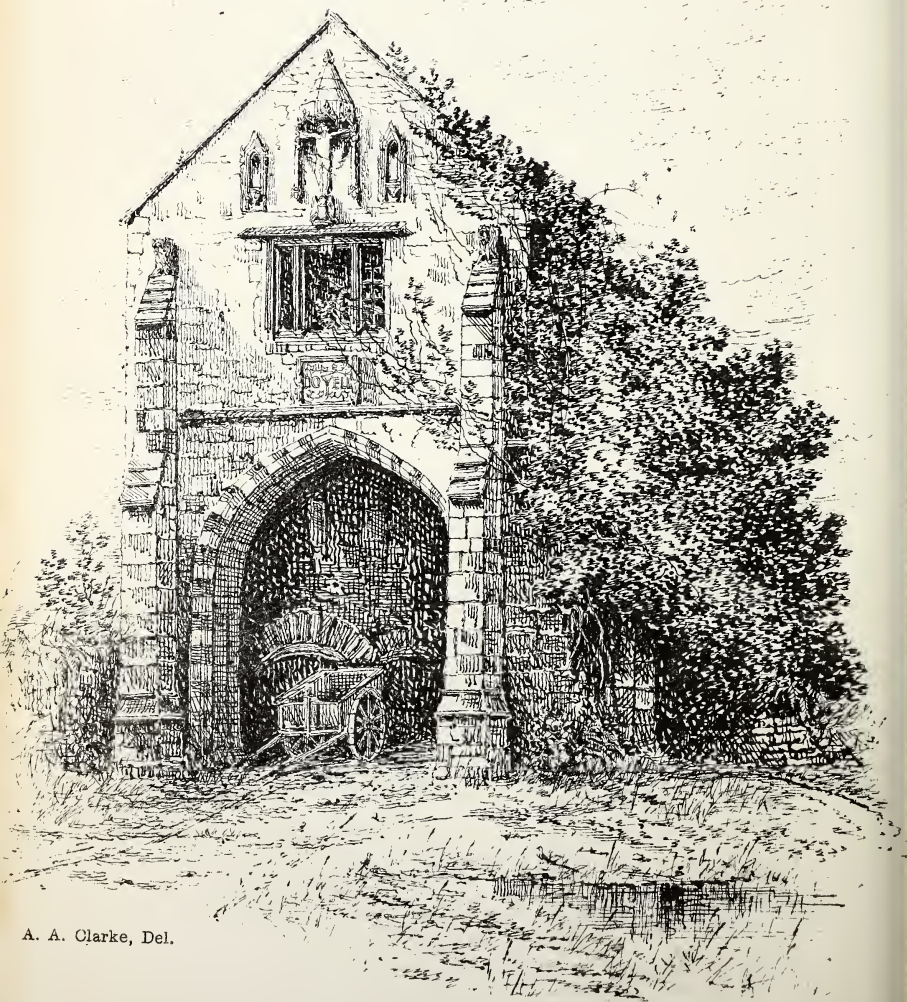
Although the ruins of Cleeve Abbey at the present day present far more that is interesting both to the Archæologist and Artist than can be found on the sites of the great majority of monastic establishments, time, that ceaseless destroyer, and the far more rapidly destructive hand of tasteless and ignorant utilitarianism, have committed such extensive ravages upon this once magnificent fabric, that, I fear, I can do little more than give a description of its remains as they now exist, offering to your consideration such conjectures as to their

original use and general plan as appear to me to be founded on the strongest probabilities.

On the left side of the road leading from Watchet to Wiveliscombe, a few hundred yards beyond the Washford turnpike-gate, an ancient bridge crosses the rapid stream which on that side divides the road from a line of rich meadow land occupying the space between it and the rising ground on the east. This bridge leads to a gate apparently and probably modern, though the remains of an ancient jamb on the left side would seem to indicate the contrary ; the wall, however, in which it stands is hardly thick enough for an outer boundary. It is more likely that this is an ancient fragment worked into a modern wall, than that a gate should have been originally placed so far without the porter's lodge. There is, however, an ancient pitched causeway on the right side of the way, leading to the great gate-house. From the north-eastern corner of this gate-house a wall of excellent masonry and considerable height and thickness extends for some distance until it reaches the extremity of a deep moat ; at this point there was a gate leading into the meadow, part of the left jamb of which, formed of good ashler work and ornamented on the outside with a trefoiled chamfer stop, still remains. From this gate the moat, which is of considerable breadth and depth, extends on the eastern and southern sides of the ruins, to within a short distance of the brook, enclosing an irregularly-shaped area of several acres. From the point where the moat ceases to the brook, the boundary appears to have been continued by a wall which may also be traced along the side of the brook to the north-west corner of the gate-house. This moat, with the brook and the walls connecting it with the gate, constituted the outer boundary of the home farm of the Abbey, and contained, besides the

Abbey itself, an ancient mill, two fish-ponds, and, without doubt, the farm and other offices necessarily attached to so large an establishment; and at the same time afforded a defence against any sudden attack of robbers—a precaution which the state of society at the end of the 12th century must have rendered very useful to a body of foreign ecclesiastics. Near the middle of the south-eastern side of the moat is a ford which is now, and probably was anciently, used for farming purposes; and from the number of building stones lying near, it seems to have been flanked by walls, and, perhaps, closed by a gate, though I have not been able as yet to discover any well-defined foundations there. The gate-house itself is a very curious and beautiful structure; and from its architectural peculiarities requires a minute and accurate description. It stands nearly north-east and south-west, and is entered at the north end by a very fine and lofty equilateral archway, flanked on the east side by a buttress of two stages, the mouldings of which prove it to be a work of the latter part of the 15th or the beginning of the 16th century. Upon close investigation, it does not seem that this buttress is part of the original building, which is probably as early as the 13th century; for it is simply built against the wall, with very little, if any, bonding, and was clearly meant to strengthen the original walls, when the additions, which I shall point out, were made to the gate-house by William Dovell, the last abbot. The west side of the gate is entirely occupied by a massive plain buttress of modern construction, the necessity of which to the preservation of the building is unfortunate, as it not only diminishes the beauty of the gate, but by blocking up a doorway, traces of which may be seen on that side, destroys what might otherwise have probably afforded

a clue to the somewhat puzzling arrangement of the building attached to the western side of the gate. Over the arch is an inscription in characters in use in the 15th and 16th centuries, "*Porta patens esto nulli claudaris honesto,*" the hospitable import of which gives, in my opinion, a clue to the purpose for which the gate-house was used. Above this is a square-headed window of late Perpendicular character, divided by stone mullions into three lights, and above this the gable is ornamented with niches which however are too much hidden by ivy to admit of accurate description. The passage which leads from the external to the internal archway is 46ft. long by 13ft. in breadth, and was arched through its whole length; this arch, which has now disappeared, seems to have been of plain barrel form, with plain ashler ribs, the spring of one of which may still be seen on the left side of the passage; over the whole length of this passage was a hall, lighted at each end by a square-headed window of three lights, having an open timber roof, which still remains; a large fire-place on the west side, and a door, communicating with a passage, and chambers much larger and more numerous than could have been required for a mere porter's lodge. On the right side of the arched passage are two large segmental arches, now in great measure built up, having smaller doors in them, but which, from the care with which the ashler stones composing them are dressed on the underside, were no doubt originally open. This would reduce the right wall of the passage to a mere arcade, and the ground-floor rooms would have been a sort of aisle to it. These I imagine to have been stables; an arrangement not uncommon in the 13th and 14th centuries, when the hall, as in this case, occupied the upper story. This conjecture seems to be in some degree corroborated by the fact that



A. A. Clarke, Del.

THE INTERIOR FRONT OF THE GATEHOUSE, OLD CLEEVE ABBEY.

there is no fire-place in these rooms, the flue of the hall chimney rising from a bracket at some height above the ground. The staircase leading to the hall above seems to have been placed in the right-hand corner of this stable, but owing to the modern buttress, I have not been able quite to satisfy myself as to its construction. A similar buttress on the east side of the building fills up the space, upon which an arch, such as I have described, opens on that side of the passage ; but there is every reason to suppose that it led into another stable, though I doubt whether on this side there were any rooms above the ground floor. About half-way up the passage was a door, the jambs of which may still be seen, and immediately beyond it, on the left-hand, is a niche, which, from a slight colouring of smoke on the stones, I conjecture to have been used for a lamp ; then again is a small doorway, having a segmental arch with plain chamfer mouldings, which may be of any date, and now serves as a side entrance to the abbey yard, but probably led into the original porter's lodge ; for the two buttresses on that side are not original, but built against the wall in the manner I have already described, while the decorative lines still remaining on the plaster give ample reason for supposing that the wall was not originally an external one. We now come to the very beautiful internal front of the gate-house, which consists of a very fine arch, corresponding to that at the other end, flanked by perpendicular buttresses, between which is a bold and well-cut string supporting a square medallion containing the name of the last abbot Dovell, combined with an elegant ornament of vine foliage ; over this is a square-headed window of three lights, and above this window in the gable are three niches of exquisite tabernacle work, the centre one containing a very fine crucifix in par-

ticularly good preservation, while the other two, which no doubt contained statues of the Blessed Virgin and the beloved disciple St. John, are unfortunately vacant. At first sight I hastily concluded that this front was similar in construction to the other—that is to say, that it was an early building, probably of the 13th century, modernized and adorned in a later style. But my friend Mr. Giles, who has kindly assisted me in my investigation, and to whose professional acumen I am indebted for many valuable suggestions, pointed out that this arch, though apparently equilateral, was, in fact, four-centered; and also that the flanking buttresses were not, as in the cases before mentioned, built against the wall, but were actually parts of it; and that the whole front was really what it professes to be—a work of the latter part of the 15th or the beginning of the 16th century, beautifully adapted to the general effect of the gate-house modernized as I have described.

The inferences which I draw from these facts are, that the gate-house is a fabric of the 13th or 14th century, and was from the first used as the hostelry and guest-hall of the Abbey. That Abbot Dovell enlarged and raised the hall, built the internal front and the buttresses, filled up the arches leading to the stables on the ground floor (an arrangement which had in his days become antiquated,) added to the west side a porter's lodge, the foundation of which may still be traced, pulled down the original lodge on the east side, and left the door by which it had originally been entered as a side way to the gate for the use of foot passengers.

Having passed the gate-house, we find ourselves in a scene of peculiar beauty—we are now within the enclosure of the Abbey, the boundary wall of which extends along the hedge on the left hand, in which there still re-

mains an ancient door, having a curious shallow porch, the covering of which, with traces of its side walls, still remains, though in a very dilapidated condition. The ancient mill-stream runs across this enclosure, finding an exit to the brook on the left side of the gate-house. Beyond this again stand the modern farm-house and the venerable Abbey itself, almost hidden by the foliage of walnut and sycamore trees of gigantic size, under whose shade the monks may probably have sat, so venerable do they appear—so truly monastic is the effect of the gloom they cast on the grey walls of the cloister near which they stand. Entering by a door near the farm-house, we find ourselves in a cloister of considerable size, surrounded by monastic buildings in a state of preservation far superior to almost any I have met with. The cloister, a structure of the 15th century, still exists on the western side of the quadrangle; it is now divided into sheds for cattle; on the other three sides it has disappeared, and a modern shed has been erected against the northern wall, where, however, may still be seen a recess of Early English character, probably marking the situation of one of those seats which are occasionally found in cloister walls. The Perpendicular cloister apparently was not vaulted, though the strong ribs of ashler work which supported the floor of an upper story still exist, as well as the sills of some of the windows which gave light to the upper rooms. This building probably contained the library, museum, lecture-room, singing school, and other rooms which were usually attached to monastic establishments, and extended to the chapel, which (now destroyed) stood at the north end of the eastern side of the quadrangle. There is some difficulty in the plan of the chapel, but though it has almost entirely disappeared, some vestiges remain, which may in some degree enable us

to trace its position. In the jamb of the gate leading to the farm yard may be seen a square recess of ashler work ; this, though much mutilated, is undoubtedly a piscina, with a quatrefoiled water-drain. It is evidently in situ, and was of course placed at the side of the altar. Against the wall of the present granary, where tradition says the tower stood, there may be seen the remains of a strong pier, and opposite to it are the foundations of one answering to it ; above in the wall is a door entering into what was the turret stair, and at the other corner, a larger door which seems to have entered into the dormitory and probably led into the gallery intended for the accommodation of the sick monks. The spring of an arch is distinctly visible at the tower pier, and it seems probable that the choir extended from a little to the east of the gate just mentioned, to the western wall of the tower, occupying the breadth of the present road, and the area of the tower itself, which, though, small might have been large enough for the accommodation of the monks themselves. So far the plan is easily made out, but just to the west of the solid wall of the tower are the remains of what must have been the entrance to the chapel. That the gate opened outwards from the quadrangle is evident from the fastenings which remain, and there is still to be seen the spring of a higher arch on the north side of the wall, an almost universal arrangement in church-doors, in which the inner arch is almost invariably higher than the outer. Now this door, I think, must have led into an ante-chapel, through which there was probably a passage to the burying-ground, which lay on the north side of the chapel, and it seems probable that there was a north aisle, and though I have not been able to trace its foundations, there have certainly been buildings of some kind on the north side ; nor can I find any marks of the cross wall,

which, if my conjecture be right, must have touched the northern wall of the cloister somewhere to the west of the chapel door. I am, however, inclined to believe the chapel was a small edifice, having a central tower, probably of no great height, with a short north aisle, or rather transept, thus giving the rudimentary plan of a cruciform building, commonly to be traced in Early English churches in this part of England, which transept, being extended westward beyond the tower would have afforded space for the antechapel, as I suppose it to have existed.* Under the north end of the dormitory, which occupied the whole length of the upper story of the eastern side of the quadrangle, is a small room with an arched ceiling, to which there was no access except from the chapel, the present entrance from the quadrangle being merely an aumbry, the wall under which has been broken through down to the ground, while the door into the chapel has been converted into a fireplace. This small room is surrounded by aumbries, and was no doubt the vestry; but, besides these aumbries, it contains a very curious and almost unaccountable feature. The window which looks to the east appears to have been originally a narrow Early English window, with splay and rear arch similar to the others in this part of the building; but some time after, probably early in the 14th century,

* Since writing the above, I have found cause for doubting the correctness of my views on the structure of the church. It seems probable that it was a cruciform building of considerable dimensions, the south transept of which was occupied by the tower; and that the piscina above mentioned was that attached to an altar situated at the east end of the south transept; that the high altar stood somewhere to the north-east of this, perhaps within the present rick-yard; and that the nave extended some distance to the west of the entrance mentioned as having probably opened upon an antechapel, but which, it is more likely, entered into the nave itself. I have not, however, been able satisfactorily to ascertain the extent of the building towards the west.

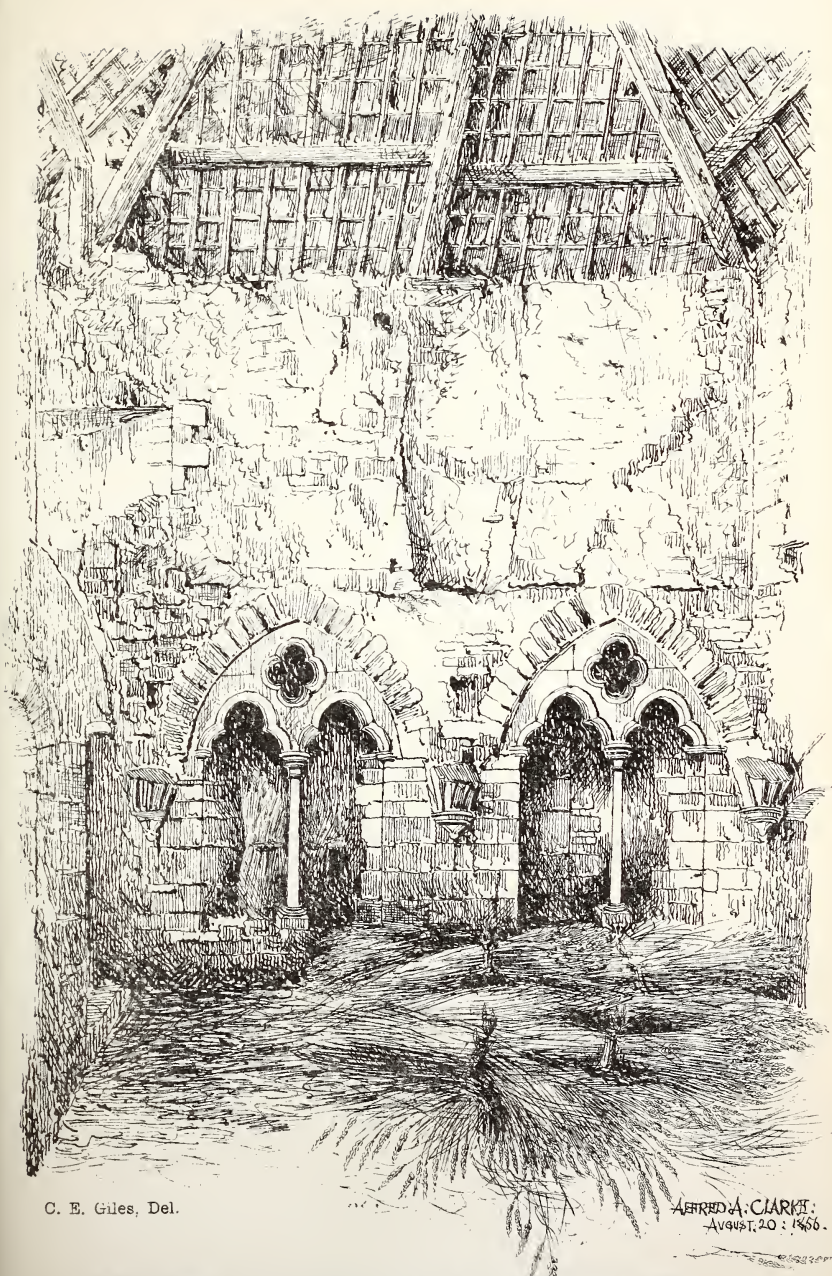
a round window ornamented with the scroll moulding has been substituted for the narrow Early English window. This round window, which appears never to have been glazed, is seven feet in diameter, and at its base, only a few inches from the ground. It opened into an ancient building, formerly used as a malt-house. Though an after-thought, it is evidently in situ, and was originally open to its whole circumference ; the wall work with which it is now in part blocked up is evidently a Post-Reformation work. This is a feature which I have never observed anywhere else ; and the only solution of the mystery which I can venture to suggest is this : from the arrangement of the room above, and particularly from the door opening from it into the chapel which I mentioned just now, it seems probable that the infirmary was immediately over this room : when a monk died, his body was removed from the infirmâry to a room adjoining the chapel, where it was prepared for interment. Now, might not this vestry have been also used for this purpose, and might not this large circular aperture have been constructed for the purpose of admitting the corpse to this apartment instead of carrying it through the chapel, which, before it was prepared for burial, might have been considered improper and indecent ? The ground-floor of the building at the eastern side of the quadrangle, as far as the passage at the south-eastern corner, is occupied by small vaulted rooms, with one window at the end, apparently of the 13th century, except in the centre of the building, which is occupied by the splendid entrance to the chapter-house, the foundations of which may be traced extending to the east of the present buildings. This entrance communicated with the quadrangle by a beautiful Early English doorway, having plain chamfer mouldings placed between two double windows with chamfer mould-

ings and blue lias shafts ; those at the sides rising from worked brackets, each having a quatrefoil light above the central shaft. It occupies the whole depth of the building, and it exhibits in its roof a very beautiful arrangement of Early English vaulting, the shafts springing from very elegant brackets, and being composed of blue lias. The remains of an ornament in fresco may still be seen on this roof. The chapter-house itself extended to the east of this entrance, and appears to have been in form a parallelogram, higher than the entrance, and vaulted in a similar style. Beyond the passage, in the south-eastern corner of the quadrangle, extends a very remarkable apartment ; this is a hall 59ft. in length by 20ft. in breadth ; at the south end are two very beautiful double Early English windows, now blocked up, divided in the centre of the rear arch by a shaft of blue lias, with others at the sides springing from very well-moulded brackets, the space above the centre shafts being occupied by quatrefoil openings. This hall has three doors—one from the passage before mentioned, another from the farm-yard, and another leading into the garden. It has been a low, heavily-vaulted room, the vaults springing from very massive brackets at the walls, and supported by a row of pillars up the centre of the hall. There was a large fire-place on the east side, and on the west a recess answering to it ; altogether it is very similar in character, as it is nearly of the same date, as the hall in the Bishop's palace at Wells. The most remarkable feature in this hall, and one I am utterly unable to explain, consists of two low arched apertures opposite each other at the south end of the side walls. These were certainly not windows, and they are too low for doors. They both passed quite through the wall : only one is now open, and it was evidently closed by a door. That there were pas-

sages into which these opened seems certain; but the purpose they were intended to answer is a point which I must leave to the decision of more learned archæologists. On the whole, I am inclined to believe that this was originally the refectory of the Abbey, and might have been altered to the Abbot's lodging, when the present glorious refectory was built in the 15th century; or it might have been the common room which we know existed in all monasteries of any importance. My idea that it was the original refectory seems to receive some corroboration from there being in the passage which leads to the offices, and near the door of the hall, some curious shelves, which do not appear to have had doors, and which would certainly have been very convenient to the attendants.

The dormitory, to which we ascend by a staircase from a fine Early English doorway with blue lias side shafts, in the eastern side of the quadrangle, appears to have extended the whole length of the building, the present partition, though old, being evidently an insertion. At the corners of the north end are two doors, before mentioned, one leading into the turret staircase, the other into the chapel, at some height from the ground, while the third seems to have led by a flight of steps into a room over the chapter-house. The mouldings of the staircase door are worthy of notice, as they appear to be of much later date than the rest of the arch; but on minutely examining the top of the capital of the shafts, I think I detected the marks of the original moulding, which seems to have been cut away in after days.

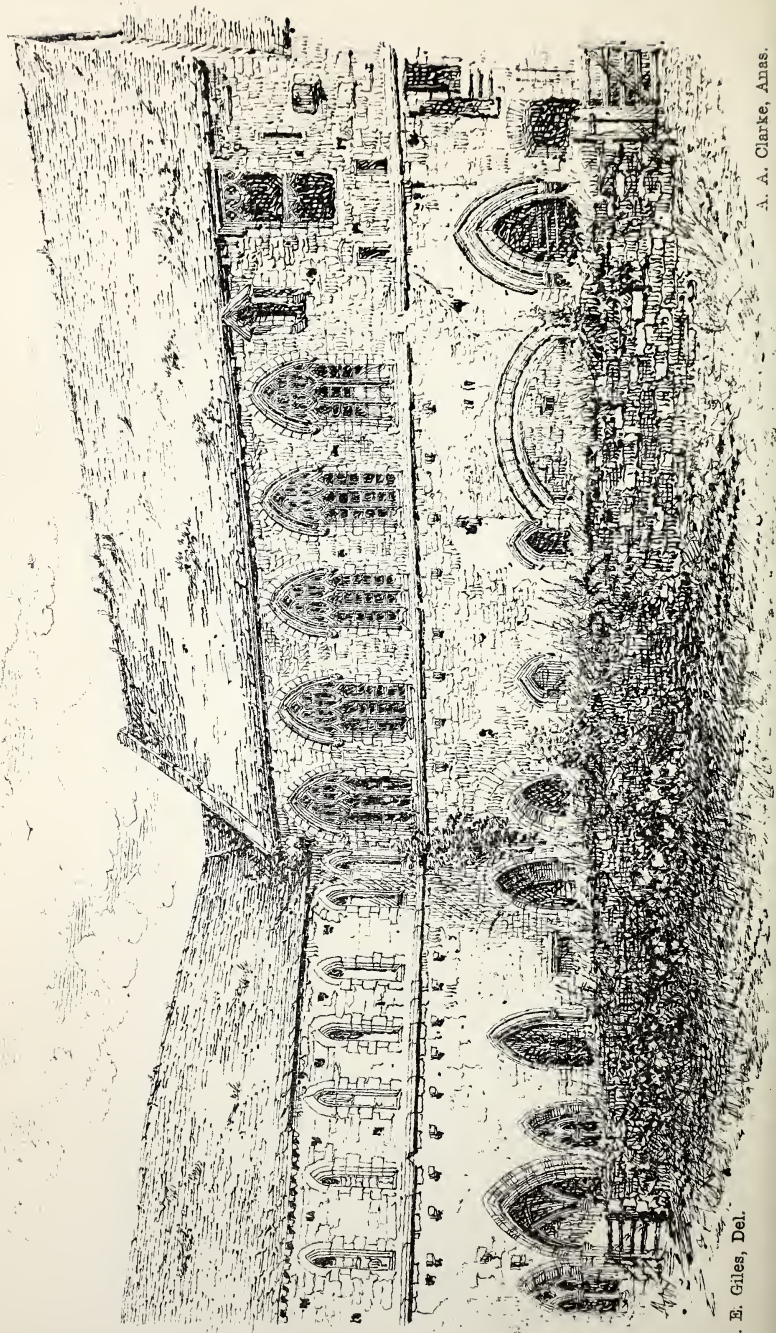
We now come to what is, perhaps, the most interesting part of the Abbey, as it is certainly the most striking part of the building now in existence—the south side of the quadrangle. On entering the cloisters by the door near



C. E. Giles, Del.

ALFRED A. CLARK:
August 20 : 1866.

THE REMAINS OF THE ANCIENT REFECTORY, OLD CLEEVE ABBEY.



C. E. Giles, Del.

A. A. Clarke, Anas.

the farm-house, we are at once struck with the beauty of five large Perpendicular windows, which occupy the greater part of the upper story of this side, and give light to the great hall or refectory ; immediately to the right of these is a bell-cot, and the windows of the buttery. In the south-west corner may be seen the ruins of a newel staircase leading from the cellar to the buttery, and to the left of this a very fine Early English arch opening upon the staircase of the refectory ; on the wall may easily be traced the marks of the roofs of a porch and low building, which are represented in Collinson's plate as occupying the south-western corner of the quadrangle, but which have now disappeared. To the left of this doorway is a recess in the thickness of the wall, surmounted by a low segmental arch of considerable span. This was the lavatory, and the situation of the cistern used by the monks for their ablutions is still marked by the broaches from which the moulding rises ; beyond this again are doors leading to the kitchen and other offices ; and in the corner a passage runs through the whole depth of the building, and leads to what I suppose to have been the garden, to which it gives access by a low arched door. On the left side of this door is an Early English loop, which enabled the porter to see who demanded admittance before he unlocked the door. The whole of this lower story is of Early English date, though the mouldings of the doors leading to the kitchen, as well as the fire-places, have been modernized in the 15th century—probably at the time when the refectory was built. A passage of communication appears to have extended through the whole of these offices as far as the passage from which the vaulted hall was entered—an arrangement which would certainly have been required if, as I suppose, that room was the original refectory of the Abbey. That

there existed an apartment of importance over these offices in the 13th century can hardly be doubted, from the size and beauty of the arch leading to the refectory staircase ; yet, whatever it was, it must have been a much lower building than the present one, the end of which blocks up some of the windows of the dormitory, against which it has been built, while marks on the outside of one of the walls to the south seem to indicate that the buildings which once stood there were considerably lower than those at present remaining. From the doorway we ascend by a broad flight of stone steps to a landing-place, lighted by a Perpendicular window, divided by a transom, on the left side of which is a stone bench, while the other side is occupied by the door of the buttery ; on the left side of this landing a door (having its arch, which is low, and its jambs ornamented with rather poor mouldings of late Perpendicular character), admits us to the great refectory, which is certainly a most beautiful hall, and remains in a more perfect state than almost any room of equal antiquity that I have ever seen. This magnificent room, which is 51ft. in length by 22ft. in breadth, and still retains its exquisite carved roof, supported by angel corbels, is lighted on the north side by five large Perpendicular windows of three lights, and on the south by four, the space of the second being occupied by the fire-place and reader's pulpit, the situation of which may still be traced on the wall on the east side of the fire-place. These four windows differ from those on the north side, being divided by transoms, but as those on the north have evidently been repaired and otherwise tampered with, it is probable that the difference did not originally exist. In the left corner of the western end of the hall is a small arched doorway, connected with the buttery and staircase leading to the cellar, by an oak pas-

sage, apparently original. On the wall at the other end may still be traced a fresco painting, representing the crucifixion, the side figures being those of the Blessed Virgin and St. John, an ornament which, it is said, was invariably used in the refectory halls of Cistercian monasteries. To describe this hall with the minuteness its beauty deserves, would tax the patience of my audience far more than I am inclined to do. It is indeed a magnificent and beautiful room both in proportion and in detail, and would certainly lead us to suppose that in the 15th century the Cistercians had relaxed their rule of simple and coarse food, in which point they are said to have been more austere than the monks of most other denominations. Besides what I have now described there are among the farm buildings a few other ancient fragments, but in so mutilated a condition and of such small extent as to render any attempt at detailed description not only very difficult, but unsatisfactory and uninteresting.

I have thus given you a very brief description of the existing ruins of Cleeve Abbey, and I feel that I ought to apologise for offering to your notice so meagre and unsatisfactory an account of the ecclesiastical gem of this neighbourhood—a gem which, though small in comparison, vies in interest with its gigantic neighbour, Glastonbury. There the domestic offices and buildings have disappeared ; here they are particularly perfect. But in truth the Vallis Florida has proved to me not altogether free from thorns. The ruins are full of difficulties. The construction of the gate-house ; the use of the Early-English hall, with its mysterious low side apertures ; the niche on the north side of the cloister ; and, above all, the Decorated round in what I have ventured to call the vestry, not to mention

the plan of the chapel, are all most perplexing features in this beautiful fabric. But for the help of my friend Mr. Giles, whose practised eye at once detected many things which I might never have discovered, my account of these ruins would have been far less satisfactory to myself than it is at present. I have, however, done my best in the time I could give to this investigation to record what remains of the splendid Abbey of Old Cleeve, the nursing mother, as I believe, of civilisation in this district. It was a wild and remote country ; the Norman invaders had taken up a strong position in it ; the native population were oppressed and desperately hostile ; a body of foreign ecclesiastics, related by birth and country to the ruling party, and by the ties of Christian charity with the conquered and oppressed, settled themselves upon this spot ; here they lived, and here, in charity let us believe, they did good in their generation. Time passed on—the conquering Norman and the conquered Saxon were gradually amalgamated into one body ; those institutions which were peculiarly adapted to one state of society by degrees lost their value as another state arose. Corruption, here, as in all other human establishments, no doubt sprung up from the growing unfitness of the institutions to the wants of the time, but let us not suppose that all the tales of corruption we read of are true. Let this be as it may, the fatal hour of monastic institutions, the 16th century, approached ; then, as elsewhere, the monks reading the signs of the times, and conscientiously thinking, as I believe, that they should by that means place the property of the church in a more secure position, laid out large sums in adorning and enlarging their fabric. How vain this attempt was, the state of the ruins proves. These have been preserved simply because they are useful for agricultural purposes. After

the lapse of a few short months a railroad will probably pass through the ancient moat. The Vallis Florida, the wild retreat chosen by the pioneers of civilisation for the scene of their religious meditations, will be desecrated and disturbed by the rattle of locomotives, and the solemn harmony of the choir be superseded by the discordant screams of the steam-whistle. But lamentable as this may appear to the lover of the picturesque, harshly as this change may jar upon the feelings to those who look beyond mere pounds, shillings, and pence, trust me (and it is a strong recommendation to the study of antiquities), that no one knows so well as the archæologist that the present is better than the past—that no one has such sure grounds as the archæologist for hoping that the future will be better than the present.

On the Traces of Camps and Ancient
Earth-Works still Existing around
Bath and in the Neighbourhood.

BY THE REV. H. M. SCARTH, M.A.

THERE are no traces of human labour so lasting as mounds or earth-works—none which in all the vicissitudes through which society passes in the lapse of ages, retain their characters with so little variation—none which so completely defy the hand of time, and provoke less the ravages of man. While lofty buildings are destroyed for the sake of their materials, when they have once fallen into disuse, and few edifices are suffered to continue unless they can be converted to other purposes, and so turned to profitable account—the earth-work continues the same, or with very little alteration, from the time that it was neglected, or abandoned as a place of defence, or forgotten as a boundary-line, or unused as a road, or ceased to be regarded as a place marking the repose of the dead, who it may be had fallen in battle.

In certain places where the land is adapted for the purposes of agriculture, there these land-marks of the history of former ages have gradually been effaced by the use of the plough, or the soil spread around with the object of improving the fertility of the land ; but as earth-works for the most part occur on high lands, or barren hills, or on moors unsuited for cultivation, they remain much in the same state as when they ceased to be occupied for defensive and other purposes, except that the gradual decay of herbage, and its reproduction, as well as the washing of the rain and winter floods, tend in some degree to bring them gradually to a level surface. The ditch becomes by degrees less deep, the mound less high ; but when turf has once covered it, the process is so slow that the earth-works of this country remain to the present time the truest monuments of the manners and habits of our forefathers ; and as such they must be regarded with the deepest interest, and are well worthy of the most careful investigation ; and happy it is that men have been found ready to give time and attention to their study, and have brought learning and research to bear upon their elucidation. These ancient mounds give life to history, which otherwise becomes insipid and wearisome. Who does not feel more enthusiastic and realize more vividly the scenes and events of bygone times, when he stands upon the very spot where the brave early defenders of this island first withstood attempts at subjugation ? Who does not read Cæsar and Tacitus with deeper interest, when he traces the connection of forts, and treads upon the very line of march, and stands upon the battle-ground, described by the historian ? Such investigations give health and recreation both to mind and body—they give study a vitality which it cannot otherwise possess ; and these historical monuments, however simple,

should be regarded as spots consecrated to history, and should be everywhere carefully preserved from injury. They are landmarks denoting the progress of society, tracing the gradual growth of a nation's greatness, pointing out how it has emerged from darkness into that light of civilization which by the mercy of God it now enjoys. By means of these earth-works, it is highly probable that we can trace the first settlement of colonists in this country. The lands most probably first inhabited were the Chalk Downs—the high lands running through Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, Derbyshire, and on into Yorkshire, as far as the sea on the east—all present traces of early occupation. Along the lines of uncultivated down land, you find a series of camps, which could communicate by signal, and at no great distance apart, which were no doubt the strongholds of the first inhabitants of the island, who used them as places of safety and defence for themselves, and for the protection of their cattle against the wolves and other beasts of prey which swarmed in the forests which then covered the low lands. The first occupants of the country no doubt seized upon the high lands, where they fed their sheep, and by degrees extended their dominion into the vales, and brought them into some degree of cultivation. I am inclined to think that the line of the chalk formation pretty fairly marks out the limit of first civilization. Yet, as it is to be feared every year makes these interesting reliques more scarce, by reason of the daily improvements in agriculture, and the increase of population—as waste lands are now so generally being enclosed, and spots hitherto uncultivated afford space to the spread of population—it is well that the pen of history should gather up what is left, and place it before the minds of men both as

it exists now and as it may have existed in times long gone by. With this feeling I purpose to ask your indulgence while I seek to trace out before you the vestiges of Ancient Earth-works which still exist on the hills around Bath and in its neighbourhood. They are many and very interesting, and have escaped hitherto the hand of man. Much, however, that concerns their history must rest upon conjecture. The light by which we read their former purposes is somewhat obscure, and I know, therefore, that I shall receive at the hands of this assembly that kind indulgence which should always be afforded to a work of this kind.

And first, I ought to touch upon that very interesting landmark of an ancient people now passed away—the WANSDYKE—traces of which are here and there still visible in Somersetshire.* The general consent of antiquaries has fixed upon the Wansdyke as the last of the Belgic boundaries. It seems probable, from the examination of ancient earth-works in Hampshire and South Wilts, that the Belgæ made three distinct conquests, each of which is marked by a new boundary-line, the last of which is the Wansdyke. This subject has been very ably discussed by that learned and intelligent antiquary, Dr. Guest, the present Master of Caius College, who in a paper published in the *Archæological Journal*, accompanied with a map carefully noting the remains of ancient boundary-lines, has shewn that very satisfactory reasons may be given for this opinion. “This magnificent earth-work,” says he, “reached from the woodlands of Berkshire to the British Channel. Its remains have been carefully surveyed by Sir R. C.

* The etymology of this word is derived from the C. British, *gwahanu*, *separare*—and denotes a line of separation or demarcation; and not, as sometimes has been stated, from “Woden’s Dyke.”

Hoare. The conquests it was intended to include seems to have been—first, the Vale of Pewsey; secondly, the mineral district of the Mendip Hills; and thirdly, the country lying between this range and the marshes of the Parret.” Ptolemy gives Winchester, Bath and Ilchester, as the three principal towns of the Belgic province. But Bath was not included in the line of the Wansdyke; it lies just without it, and therefore is not properly a Belgic town; although the Belgic fortress on Hampton Down, which I shall proceed to describe, is on the Wansdyke, and lies immediately above the present city and the hot springs. This may have led the geographers into the mistake. “If,” says Dr. Guest, “we run a line along the Wansdyke from Berkshire to the Channel, then along the coast to the Parret, then up that river eastward till we strike the southern borders of Wiltshire, and then follow across Dorsetshire to the sea, we shall have defined with tolerable accuracy the northern and western boundaries which Roman geographers assigned to the Belgæ proper.” In the description which Collinson has given of the Wansdyke, he seems to have fallen into the error of mistaking for it a portion of one of the older Belgic boundary-lines. When he wrote his history, earth-works had not received that careful attention which they have since had, and if both he and Sir R. C. Hoare have spoken somewhat inaccurately, and sometimes made mistakes in not discriminating between roads and boundary-lines, or confused lines of a different date, we must only be very thankful that their researches in days past have opened a path for others to enter upon their investigations and carry their labours to a more certain issue. Dr. Guest observes that our ancient boundary-lines seem to admit of a three-fold division: there are—first, the boundary-lines which defined

the territories of the British tribes before the Roman Conquest ; secondly, those which were made by the Romanized Britons ; thirdly, the marsh ditches thrown up by our ancestors after the English colonization of the island. "Wansdyke," says Collinson, "exists to this day in many places in perfect preservation—one of the greatest curiosities of antiquity. It commences at Andover in Hampshire, and thence passes in nearly a straight direction to Great Bedwin, within the confines of Wilts, near which, upon its track, have been discovered celts and instruments of war." I cannot but think that this is an error in the historian of Somersetshire. The second Belgic boundary, according to Dr. Guest, "included the valleys of South Wilts, and then swept round so as to separate the downs of Hampshire from the woodlands which encircle Scott's Poor, and the remains of the boundary-line called the Devil's Ditch, near Andover, and at Walbury (which Collinson calls Wansdyke) must be assigned to this period, rather than considered portions of Wansdyke." On the confines of the Forest of Savernake it seems to take its beginning ; and on the wild Marlbro' Downs it appears, as Collinson observes, "in its pristine state, exceedingly deep, and flanked by a very lofty mound, attracting by its singular appearance the attention of the curious traveller." A curious feature in its course is that from the border of Savernake Forest it bends to the south, as if to avoid Avebury, and approaches close to, but does not include, Bath.

"It seems reasonable to infer from this," says Dr. Guest, "that when the line of demarcation was drawn, the Dobuni insisted on retaining their ancient temple and their hot baths ; and if this inference be a just one, another and a more important one seems naturally to follow :

assuming that the Belgæ were thus excluded from Avebury, is it not likely that they would provide a 'Locus Consecratus' at some central point within their own border—a place for their judicial assemblies, like the Gaulish Temple, 'in finibus Carnutum, quæ regio totius Galliæ media habetur?' (Cæs. BG, vi.) And may not Stonehenge have been the substitute so provided?" With respect to this wonderful structure, the same writer observes: "If the Belgæ were the builders, it follows necessarily that this temple was erected after the vale became Belgic territory—*i. e.*, after the Wansdyke had been raised," and therefore we regard Wansdyke as older than Stonehenge. Avebury, which is *outside* the Wansdyke, is probably much older than either, but as to its date it is impossible to conjecture.

Collinson, in his *History of Somerset*, considers the Wansdyke to be the work of Divitiacus, who is mentioned by Cæsar, who tells us that he was king of the Suessiones, a people inhabiting the country around Soisson, and in Cæsar's time (*nostrâ etiam memoriâ*) the most powerful chief in all Gaul. He tells us that he had not only obtained supremacy over a great part of Belgic Gaul, but also over a great part of Britain: "*Qui quam magnæ partis harum regionum tum etiam Britannîæ imperium obtinuerit.*" "By what steps," observes Dr. Guest, "he had obtained this supremacy, we are not told; but we may surmise that it was by his aid that the Belgæ pushed their conquests into the interior of the island." If, as is probable, the British king who opposed Cæsar belonged to the Belgic race, then the Belgæ must have obtained possession of the vale of Aylesbury and the plains of Hertfordshire, previous to the year 55 B.C., and we may infer that they acquired these districts under the leadership of

Divitiacus, for we do not learn that Verulam had fallen into the hands of Cassivelaunus by any recent act of conquest. There exist some interesting lines of earth-work, which seem to have been made with a view to separate the new conquests from the country of the Trinobantes. They have been as yet only partially examined.

It is possible that the same monarch who settled the boundaries of the Catyeuchlani may also have pushed forward the Belgic frontier to the Wansdyke. The Cantii, the Attrebates, the Catyeuchlani, were probably all three Belgic races, and as regards the Attrebates, we are able to make this assertion positively. All three seem to have been subject to the Imperium of Cassivelaunus; but there is nothing to lead us to the inference that the Southern Belgæ acknowledged his supremacy. As so few years separated the reign of this prince from that of Divitiacus, it is a reasonable presumption that he was, if not a descendant, at least a successor of the Gaulish monarch, and consequently that the limits of his dominion defined the British Imperium of his great predecessor. If so, the course of conquest which Divitiacus traced out must have nearly coincided with that followed by later invaders, by Cæsar, Plautius, and by the Norman William; and consequently this celebrated chief could not have been the conqueror who reared the Wansdyke. Thus we see that Collinson appears to be in error on this point, at least if we admit the correctness of the above reasoning. As to the period assigned by him to the first entry of the Belgæ into this country, about 213 B.C., and 250 before Divitiacus, he may be correct, although the date can only be conjectural, as it may have been five, or four, or three centuries before the Christian Æra. It is clear from

Cæsar that for some centuries before Christ, the Belgæ were the most energetic and powerful, and, as Dr. Guest observes, among half-civilized races this means the *most aggressive* of the Gaulish tribes.

We will now proceed to trace the course of Wansdyke, and to point out the camps which lie in its course, giving a brief description of each as we proceed. According to Collinson, after quitting Marlbro' Down, it visits Calston, Edington, and Spye-Park, crosses the river Avon near Bennacre, and again, after being lost in tilled fields, meets with the same meandering river at Bathampton. Its course is then continued over Claverton Down to Prior-Park, English Combe, Stanton Prior, Publow, Norton, Long Ashton, and terminates at the Severn Sea, near the ancient port of Portishead, forming a line of eighty miles in length, in more than three parts of which it is yet visible.

I have mentioned the ancient Belgic settlement, which can still be traced on Hampton (or, as Collinson calls it, Claverton) Down, and which overlooks Bath and Bathampton. It is a fortified point of great interest, and has been one of great strength and importance. The vestiges which remain of it are very extensive, and can be traced without difficulty. A plan of it is given in Mr. Phelps' *History of Somerset*, which is far from accurate. A survey was made by the late Mr. Skinner, of Camerton, and is, as I understand, deposited with his MSS. in the British Museum. I applied there to have a tracing of it, but, by Mr. Skinner's will, his MSS. are not to be opened until 50 years after his decease, and there are, I believe, about 36 years still to run out.

It consists of a bold, projecting promontory, at the base of which winds the river Avon, and overlooks the valley extending to Bristol, and also that in the direction of

Bradford. To the west the view extends to the Channel, and to the south-east far into Wiltshire. Communication might be made by signal with the other camps along the line of Wansdyke and those on the Wiltshire downs. Directly in front of it, on the other side of the river, is another earth-work of great interest, called Little Salisbury or Sulisbury, but which is not in the line of the Wansdyke, and must therefore not at present come under notice. This promontory, or lingula, is cut off from the adjoining portion of the hill by a deep trench and mound, which can be very distinctly traced from the top of Bathwick-Hill to the verge of Claverton-Park ; a wall runs on the whole length of it. The circuit enclosed is thirty acres. On the east side it is very precipitous, but the traces of it here have been much injured, and in places quite effaced, by the stone quarries which have been worked in years past. However the northern entrance and the road or track-way leading to it is very perfect, and this track-way may be traced through the settlement and the southern approach, which seems to have been about the place of the present handgate. The point towards Bath, and overlooking the rich vale through which the Avon flows before reaching the city has been scarped, and so rendered less accessible, while traces of a rampart are still visible. The divisions into which this settlement has been formed are very distinctly marked. From Little Salisbury, the hill opposite, a little before sun-set in the spring or autumn, you may very clearly discern the enclosures by the long shadows which the mounds cast. Each family or clan seems to have had its allotted space, which was enclosed by a mound, and no doubt either on or in front of that mound was a palisade. There are also remnants of hut circles to be seen at various points, several barrows are also contained within the enclos-

ure, and these, as far as I know, have never been examined. Near the track-way leading from the north into the camp, there seems to have existed an avenue of stones, which are all thrown down, and many of which have been removed to decorate gardens, by being formed into rockwork. The large stones now in the park at Bath, to the number of 30, are stated to have been brought from this part of the down. Here may have existed the spot for religious worship, and by the aid of imagination we may figure the religious procession with its priests and victims slowly winding along the avenue to the circle of stones near the foot of the hill. Here also was probably the place for the administration of justice. There are two enclosures contiguous to each other, and on each side an avenue of stones. Near this point also is the spring which probably supplied the camp, or at least this portion of it, with water. Betwixt the camp and the Avon a track-way seems to have run, traces of which may still be seen. On the side of the hill, and placed in cavities in the rock, skeletons have been found, placed in a sitting position, which seems to have been the most ancient form of burial. Three circular burying-places are marked in Mr. Phelps' plan as formerly existing, but of these at present no traces remain. Stone coffins containing skeletons have no doubt been found at the foot of the hill, but these belong to a period most probably much later than the Belgic settlement.

Outside the deep fosse and mound which separated the camp from the mainland, are the vestiges of a quadrangular earth-work, a portion of which has been removed for the purposes probably of agriculture. This is not more than 200 or 300 yards from the fosse, and from the two sides which remain appears to be Roman, but when or for what purpose it was formed it is difficult now to conjecture.

Certain it is that this is the point from which the settlement would be most assailable. Can this be the point from whence these bold subjugators of our island forced their way into this stronghold? Certainly these traces of man's handy-work in past times suggest stirring thoughts, and waken lively conjectures! We have the fosse road running at no very great distance from this point.

Upon the Ordnance Survey the Wansdyke is marked as crossing the down from this camp to the point where the road up Bathwick-hill falls into the road from Widcombe which runs on to the Brass-knocker-hill, and so joins the Warminster road. There are some faint traces of lines running in this direction, but not distinct enough to enable us to form any correct idea; they appear to me to be nothing beyond the remains of old track-ways leading to the camp. Nor are there now any traces of Wansdyke which can be discerned at the back of Prior-Park, which are said to have formerly existed, the plough seems so thoroughly to have done its work in levelling every vestige of this ancient boundary. Not so a little beyond the village of Combe Down, at a place called Cross Keys, where the mound is very distinctly to be traced, and carries a wall on the top of it, stretching towards the turnpike at Burnt House.

From hence it passes through Beech Wood to the village of English Combe, where it is very apparent, and can be examined with great facility. Just beyond the line of Wansdyke, where it passes Burnt House, a camp called Berewyke Camp is said to have existed; but no trace of it now remains, unless it be a portion of the earthen agger. I have carefully examined the spot several times, but cannot satisfy myself as to the present existence of the camp, although it is mentioned by the historians

of Somersetshire. The stone has been worked here to such an extent that it has completely changed the surface of the ground. It is said to have stood on the bold summit of a projecting point of hill just above Cottage Crescent, between the two roads leading to Wells, and near where the fosse road must have passed. It had certainly nothing to do with the Wansdyke or the Belgic settlement, and was probably an outpost of the Romans, such as we find on Lansdown, and probably at Combe Down, where the stone slab which is described in the *Proceedings* of the Society was found last year,* and which seems to identify that spot as a Roman military station. Following the line of Wansdyke which may be traced, as it is stated, on Newton Farm, to the south of Newton-Park, we come to Stantonbury Camp, which seems to have been one of the Belgic fortresses in its line. The camp lies to the south side of it, and is placed on the summit of an elevated and insulated eminence, commanding a wide range of country, and could communicate by signal with the camp on Bathwick-hill, with that on Maes Knoll, and with a fortress of similar construction on Lansdown, of which I shall hope hereafter to take notice—although not lying within the Belgic boundary, and probably not a work of that people. The area of Stantonbury Camp is about thirty acres, and divided by a ditch into two portions: it follows the natural formation of the ground. The northern portion is nearly straight, having a bank and ditch, which is supposed to be a continuation of Wansdyke. The sides of the hill appear to have been scarped, and platforms may be observed near the entrances, where slingers could be placed for the purposes of defence. We observe this peculiarity in all the camps of this construction.

* See *Proceedings of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society*, Vol. V. for 1854.

The name of this fortress is connected with that of an interesting Druidical temple not very far distant, but situated nearer to the next camp, Maes Knoll, than to the camp at Stantonbury. We have Stanton Drew, with its temple similar to that of Stonehenge, only three or four miles distant. The two fortresses, Stantonbury and Maes Knoll, may have been for the protection of this seat of religious worship and administration of public justice. As Stonehenge served as a central spot for the worship and judicial assemblies of the people towards the east of the Belgic settlements, so Stanton Drew may have served this purpose towards the west. Stanton is, I apprehend, "Stone Town:" the word Bury, in its primary signification, denoted a place of defence. From these places of defence being situated on eminences, so that the approach to them should be more difficult, they obtained the name of Burgs, and Stantonbury would be the strong place or fortification of Stanton.

The next earth-work which calls for our attention is the camp of Maes Knoll, which is also attached to the Wansdyke. This camp will well repay a visit : it is one of the most interesting I have examined, on account of the great height of the agger at the western end, and the depth of the foss. It is defended on three sides, by the nature of the ground ; the form is irregular, being adapted to the shape of the hill, which is the extreme eastern end of the Dundry ridge. It is admirably calculated for observation and defence. At the spot where we find the huge agger and deep foss, the ridge is contracted to a neck of land, one hundred and thirty yards across. The agger rises forty-five feet above the level of the enclosure, is twenty-five feet broad, and slopes into the foss with a declivity of sixty feet. The escarpments of the hill on the south and

east sides are protected by earth-works. There is a spring of water within the rampart, and the surface of the hill enclosed by the camp occupies a space of thirty acres : various divisions and hut circles may be traced throughout this space. From this camp communication could be made by signal with the camps on Leigh Down, called Bury Walls, and Stokesleigh Camp, which are also supposed to be Belgic fortresses on the line of Wansdyke ; but of these very interesting remnants of our ancient history, notice cannot now be taken : they would require more time than can now be devoted to discuss their history and associations. The name Maes Knoll naturally attracts our attention, and on looking into the etymology I find that Maes, in Celtic British, and in Breton or Armorican, signifies prelium—battle ; and thus Maes Knoll would be “ Battle-Hill.” This, I think, is a better derivation than that given by Mr. Phelps, who derives it from Maes—detached, and Knoll—a hill, which certainly does not express its position, for it is connected with the Dundry ridge, and does not stand isolated, as Stantonbury.

We have other names in England compounded with Maes—as Maesbrook, Maesbury. At the former place was fought a battle between Oswald, king of Northumberland, and Penda, king of Mercia, in which Oswald was slain.

If from Maes Knoll we trace the course of Wansdyke to its western limit, we find that it descended the hill on which the camp is situated, crossed High Ridge Common, and after meeting the high road from Bristol to Bridgewater, forms by its vallum and ditch a deep narrow lane, according to Collinson's account, leading to Yanley-street, in the parish of Long Ashton. From Yanley it traverses the meadow, to a lane anciently called Wondes-ditch-lane, as appears by a deed, dated at Ashton 3 Edward II.,

in which William Gondulph grants to Adam de Cloptone a cottage with a piece of land adjoining, in Aystone, juxta Bristoll, situated on the eastern side Venelle de Wondesdich. Here it traverses the Ashton road at Raynes Cross, and, ascending the hill, enters the hundred of Portbury, in the parish of Wraxall, and terminates at the ancient port of Portishead, on the Severn Sea.

From this account it will be seen that the camps on Leigh Down were not on the south side of Wansdyke, but without its limit, on the north.

I ought here to mention the earth-work above the village of Tickenham, on the north side of it, called Cadbury Camp, which is of an oblong form, and contains about four acres. It is surrounded by a triple agger and a double fosse, and a track-way has led from it to the camps on Leigh Down. This camp commands a full view of the mouth of the Avon and Portishead, and may be regarded as one of the fortresses on the line of the Wansdyke.

Having thus traced the course of the Wansdyke, and considered those earth-works which lie upon it where it passes through Somersetshire, I ought to offer some suggestions as to the state of civilization of the people by whom it was constructed, and who fortified the heights by which it is strengthened and protected. These works give us no mean opinion of their intelligence and civilization. We cannot regard them as altogether barbarians. They seem to have been capable of great works, and must have had instruments to carry them out, as well as understanding to plan and arrange them. Huge mounds of earth were not thrown up without the use of iron or bronze implements. It has been suggested that Wansdyke is the work of two distinct people. This was the opinion of the late Mr. Leman, whose investigations of ancient earth-

works and lines of road entitle him to the greatest respect. This idea is stated by Mr. Phelps to have been confirmed before his death in a very satisfactory manner. On making a communication between two parts of the Down on St. Anne's Hill, the vallum of Wansdyke was cut in two, where the stratum of soil evidently displayed the height of the original dyke, and its subsequent elevation. Yet although this conjecture is plausible, and the fact in this particular instance confirms the idea, yet before we can adopt the theory, much more investigation would be required at various points ; for Wansdyke may have been repaired and heightened at this particular point for reasons then existing ; and the same people who formed this boundary-line, may at a later period have found it necessary to make it more accurately defined.

It may not be amiss to mention that there exist in this kingdom several other instances of boundary-lines, the history of one of which we are acquainted with—*i. e.*, Offa's Dyke, which runs through the counties of Salop, Hereford, Montgomery, Denbigh, and Flint, and which is accompanied by another of earlier construction, namely, Watt's Dyke, which is carried through the counties of Salop, Denbigh, and Flint. These two great ditches run side by side for twenty miles. In some places they are within a few hundred yards of each other ; in others they lie asunder, without any apparent reason, for three miles. Watt's Dyke is much inferior to Offa's. These dykes were intended as a boundary-line between the dominions of Offa, King of Mercia, and the Welsh. Having expelled the Welsh from the open country they possessed between the Severn and the Wye, and annexed the eastern parts of Wales as far as the former river to the kingdom of Mercia, Offa proceeded to separate the Britons from his subjects

by a high mound and ditch. The date of this work is probably about 776 A.D., and that of Watt's Dyke about twenty years earlier. This latter was broken through by an irruption of the people of Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, and replaced by Offa's Dyke. There is probably a space of 1,000 years between the date of the construction of Wansdyke and Offa's Dyke, but boundary-lines of this nature seem to have been formed at all periods of the ancient history of our island. Thus, for instance, Dr. Guest in his discourse at the meeting of the Arch. Inst., at Cambridge, in 1854, in treating of the four great boundary-dykes of Cambridgeshire, considered them to be the boundary-lines of British princes. The Brent Dyke he assigned to the second period of the great Belgic Conquest, about B.C. 90, and the Pampisford Dyke to about A.D. 30. The Fleam Dyke and Devil's Dyke are much later, the former being probably the Saxon lines of East Anglia in the war of the 7th century, between the Mercians and East Anglians, whilst the latter may be a Danish work of the close of the 9th century.*

Wansdyke, although so much earlier than Offa's Dyke, is a finer construction, the ditch deeper, the mound more elevated and abrupt. It is, however, inferior in these respects to Fleam Ditch and Devil's Ditch, in the county of Cambridge. Both of these latter works, however, were for the purposes of defence, and fortified the ground between two fens, or between a fen and a forest. Their length is very trifling compared to Wansdyke. The Devil's Ditch does not extend further than eight miles, and might therefore be kept continually guarded. The Fleam Ditch extends nine and a quarter miles. The Devil's

* See *Archæological Journal*, No. 44, p. 395.

Ditch is eighteen feet above the average level of the country ; on the western, upon which side is the fosse, it is as much as thirty-eight feet. The width, taken across the summit of the ridge, is twelve feet ; the width of the ditch twenty feet. It is at present eight feet deep, and was, perhaps, originally two feet more. The entire length of the inclination of the sides of the vallum and fosse, are for the former, on the eastern side thirty feet, on the western forty-six feet ; the slope of the ditch bank on the western side of the fosse is seventeen feet. If I recollect right, a rampart runs at the top of the mound.*

These great works betoken a people advanced in the arts of construction and using implements not much inferior to the means and appliances of modern times.

Let us compare these works and the hill camps with the encampments of modern tribes, particularly with those of the New Zealanders : we shall see then how much superior were the works of our forefathers to those of modern date. Two very interesting models of New Zealand encampments are preserved in the United Service Museum in London. They are well worth examining, and give a good idea of what must have been a fortified British camp in Cæsar's time. By comparing his description with these models, and again with the remains of those earth-works that exist on the tops of hills, we are enabled to form a pretty accurate idea of what they must have been when inhabited.

Cæsar thus describes the capital of Cassivelaunus, and calls it "*Oppidum sylvis paludibusque munitum, quo satis magnus hominum pecorisque numerus convenerit. Oppidum autem Britanni vocant, quum silvas impeditas*

* See Hartshorne's *Sal. Antiq.*, p. 167.

vallo atque fossa munierunt, quo incursionis hostium vitandæ causa convenire consuerunt." Again, he says that when he had approached this stronghold with his soldiers, "*Locum repperit egregie natura atque opere munitum.*" He attacks it on two sides ; the enemy defend it for a short time, and not being able to sustain the assault of his soldiers, retire in haste from the other part of the camp, and he finds in the camp "*magnus numerus pecoris.*"

Looking now at the modern settlements or paha of the New Zealanders, we find them very irregular in shape, but angular like a modern fortification. They are protected with a double palisade, the outer one short, the inner tall, and both composed of very stout palings, the angles having the strongest stakes; next comes a deep ditch, and then a mound of earth; within this mound is the habitable part, formed into smaller fortified portions by means of palisades, and each appropriated to a different clan or family. The huts are within these enclosures, lying in long ranges, and no doubt each including many inhabitants. The approaches are well protected, and the ditches or mounds are drawn so as to overlap, and the palisades in the same manner, add to which there are several blinds or simulated entrances so as to deceive an enemy. The whole shows considerable strength and skill; when we compare, then, the depth of some of our existing ditches and the height of the mounds, the platforms for slingers, and consider the palisades in most instances probably double, we shall see that in ancient times these camps were no insignificant places of defence, and justify Cæsar's expression "*locum egregie natura atque opere munitum.*" They give us no mean idea of the intelligence, skill and bravery of the primitive inhabitants of this island.

Mr. Kemble, in his work entitled *The Saxons in England*,* has this passage corroborative of the view I have taken. He says, "If we may implicitly trust the report of Cæsar, a British city in his time differed widely from what we understand by that term. A spot difficult of access from the trees which filled it, surrounded with a rampart and ditch, and which offered refuge from a sudden incursion of an enemy, could be dignified by the name of an oppidum, and form the metropolis of Cassivilaunus."

Such also among the Slavonians were the vici, encircled with an abbatiss of timber, or at most a paling, proper to repel not only an unexpected attack, but even capable of resisting for a time the onset of practised forces ; such in our time have been found the stockades of the Burmese, and the pah of the New Zealander ; and if our skilful engineers have experienced no contemptible resistance, and the lives of many brave and disciplined men have been sacrificed to their reduction, we may admit that even the oppida of Cassivilaunus or Caratac, or Galgacus, might as fortresses have serious claims on the attention of a Roman commander.

With this observation I must conclude my present imperfect notice of the camps and earthworks in the neighbourhood of Bath, imperfect indeed, as it only treats of the portion to the south of the Avon, whereas those on the hills to the north are equally interesting and more varied. These may be treated of at some future period ; and although we have not here the very interesting boundary-line of the Wansdyke, yet we have in all probability the first of that chain of forts by means of which the Roman general, Ostorius, connected the two rivers the Severn and the Avon. This

* See Vol. ii., p. 264.

I know is a controverted point, but I am inclined to think that Little Salisbury, or Sulisbury, is the first in that line, and this hill was probably the seat of the worship of the Goddess Sul, whose name is found in so many altars dug up in Bath. The late Mr. Skinner, of Camerton, has endeavoured to identify the Wansdyke with the vallum of Ostorius, and Mr. Phelps, in his *History of Somerset*, inserts a long dissertation, in which Mr. Skinner endeavours to identify Camerton with Camalodunum, which is generally supposed to be Colchester in Essex, or Lexden near to Colchester. The idea of this vallum he bases upon the words of Tacitus, which have led to so much conjecture and such learned inquiry. Ostorius, previous to his campaign against the Silures, or inhabitants of South Wales, drew a chain of forts between the Severn and the Avon, “cinctosque castris, sabrinam et avonam fluvios colibere parat.”

Many suppose that the Avon here mentioned is the river Nen which flows through Northamptonshire, and between the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln, and then empties itself into the Wash. The name of this river, however, does not warrant the supposition, or, if the conjecture be true, it has wholly changed. Mr. Skinner, however, regards the following camps as guarding the conquests of the Romans up to the time of Ostorius:—

1. Clifton camp, on Durdham Down,
2. Stokesleigh, on Leigh Down opposite, beyond Clifton,
3. Borough Walls, contiguous to it,
4. Maes Knoll, which could communicate with Borough Walls and the heights in Wales,
5. Stantonbury camp.

I am inclined to think that these camps, if carefully examined, will give little indication of Roman occupation.

Their form is not that adopted by the Romans, who chose their encampments more in the open ground, and generally at the junction of two rivers ; but the earlier inhabitants or occupants of the country on the hill tops, or on a promontory, which they cut off from the remaining portion of the hill by a deep ditch. Mr. Skinner traces intermediate encampments, and observes that "by carrying on this line of connection between the camps on the hills facing the Avon, and extending it with intermediate stations and outposts to Farley Castle, above the Frome river, it prevented all possibility of invasion by the Silures, who used to pass over the Severn from the opposite side in light coracles, made of hides, which drew so little water that they could ascend high up the river and pass through the interval between the hill camps to invade and plunder the district." "The vallum of Antonine against the Caledonians in Scotland, and that of Hadrian in Northumberland, were arranged after the same manner."

Having lately had the satisfaction of examining the barrier of Hadrian, which stretches between Carlisle and Newcastle, and which is, perhaps, the most interesting Roman work existing in this country or in any other, I am compelled to come to a very different conclusion to Mr. Skinner. In the barrier of the lower Isthmus there are most unequivocal marks of Roman occupation, and I can discover scarcely any in the camps mentioned by Mr. Skinner, at least in Maes Knoll and Stantonbury ; and the form of that on Leigh Down and the Borough Walls appears not to be Roman.

The Vallum of Hadrian, between Newcastle and Carlisle, has been most ably investigated by Dr. Bruce, whose researches are contained in a most interesting volume, which has now come to a third edition. The form of each

camp has been successfully made out, and the name for the most part identified by remains which have been found, in one or other in the list of fortresses given in the *Notitia*. Altars and inscribed stones have been dug up in most of the stations "per lineam Valli," but I cannot hear of any along the supposed line of Ostorius, except a few remains, not important, found at Camerton. The finding of the inscribed stone last year at Combe Down, just opposite Midford Castle, where Mr. Skinner supposes a fort to have been placed, is, I believe, the only instance, and that belongs to a late period of the Roman occupation. It is probable that inscriptions were not common in Roman works until the time of Hadrian, and few have been found, of an earlier date; but still the form of the earth-works is *not* Roman, nor do they exhibit signs of Roman occupation, except it be the camp over Batheaston, called Little Salisbury, which seems to have been occupied by that people. This has been considered to be the first of a chain of forts communicating with the Severn, and running along the Cotswold Hills, which, if we regard the Bath Avon as the river Aufona, Antona, or Avona, mentioned by Tacitus, has certainly a better claim than the camps on the line of the Wansdyke between Bath and Portishead. The Romans appear in certain cases to have occupied ancient British intrenchments, with little alteration of their form; but in these *Roman coins* are generally found. It is not always an easy matter to assign a particular date to an earth-work which has been occupied successively by Roman, Saxon, and Danish invaders, after having been first formed by the aboriginal British tribes. Nevertheless, in a *connected chain of forts* the Roman mode of intrenchment will always shew itself in places. If rectangular works are not

to be found occasionally among the irregular works, we may conclude that they were not permanently occupied as a chain of forts by the Romans.

Leaving, however, this difficult subject, and reverting to the camps around Bath : we have on Lansdown the remains of an ancient British camp formed similar to that of Maes Knoll (being cut off from the other portion of the hill by a deep fosse and agger), and so placed as to communicate by signal with it and Stantonbury, and again with the camp on Leigh Down. This camp commands a view of the whole valley between Bath and Bristol, and is entered by a road from the west, and separated into two portions by a mound, apparently a continuation of the work. Each of these divisions has a mound in the centre, forming a long barrow, with a slight ditch. The road leads direct from the west and the east gates, where it crosses the ditch, which is about thirty feet wide, and has a mound outside of it on the one half. At 300 paces from this entrance we have a Roman camp, which has some curious works on the north side of it. The road to the camp which passes through the north and south gates is very distinctly to be traced. There is also another Roman camp about a quarter of a mile distant, but the turnpike road passes through it, and has destroyed its symmetry. From these two camps it may be inferred that the British earth-work was stormed and taken. On the other side of the hill we have the curious works which bring us back into the period of modern history, and tell of civil strife. We have the traces of the battle of Lansdown, in the works thrown up by Sir William Waller, which cost the cavalry of King Charles I. so many brave lives, and near to which is the monument to Sir Beville Grenville, who fell on this occasion. Looking from the western extremity of Lansdown,

we trace the Via Julia, and overlook the ancient Abone, where very interesting Roman remains have been found. We see the course that this line of road took to the Trajectus, the point where it crossed the Severn into Monmouthshire. Many barrows may also be traced on Lansdown ; and here may have been fought the battle of Mons Badonicus, although Banner Down, separated by a valley from Lansdown, lays claim to this event. The Roman roads and villas lying around Bath would occupy another hour, but all these are well worthy the attention of the antiquary, and mark a period more recent than that we have been considering. We may see in these traces that remain, how first came the British camp of rude formation ; then the Roman of more scientific construction ; and after the camp came the road, by means of which the country was gradually brought into subjection, and supplies procured and communications kept up ; and then followed the villas, which speak of quieter times and more ease, luxury, and civilization, when the Roman officer could have his country seat secure on the margin of the forest, and near the communication of some good road, and from whence he taught the rude peasant to cultivate the arts of peace, and employed him in agricultural labours, and in rearing more permanent habitations than the rude huts of his forefathers. Thus may we trace the gradual progress of civilization, and learn how true are the words of the good George Herbert :

“ Prowess and arts did train
And tune men’s hearts before the gospel came ;
Strength levelled grounds ; art formed a garden there ;
Then showered religion, and made all to bear.”

Happy is it for us that we live in the latter times, when we

see how gradually and progressively all this has come to pass. Let us, in reading these landmarks of history, not neglect the lesson they teach us, but let us learn from them gratitude and thankfulness, and compassionate sympathy for those who have not the blessings we so largely possess.

A brief Account of the Painted Glass in Wells Cathedral.

BY GREVILLE J. CHESTER.

IN the following short account of the Painted Glass in Wells Cathedral, I am, I fear, incapable of offering more than a bare inventory of the existing specimens, and of their local position. I can only hope that, in the absence of any other, this attempt may prove in some degree useful as a guide to those whose superior knowledge may supply what is wanting, when the position of the glass itself has been thus pointed out.

The varieties of glass painting, if the classification of Mr. Winston be followed, are arranged under five styles, which in the earlier instances coincide with the divisions of Gothic architecture in this country. These five styles are :—

The Early English, which comprises all specimens executed before the year 1280.

The Decorated, from 1280 to 1380.

The Perpendicular, from 1380 to 1530.

The Cinque Cento, from 1500 to 1550.

And lastly, the Intermediate, which includes the specimens executed from the close of the Cinque Cento period to the present time.*

Of the first of these styles, the Early English, it is probable that the Cathedral of Wells does not possess a single fragment.

In glass of the second, or Decorated style, it is extremely rich ; and detached specimens of all the succeeding periods are to be found scattered about in different parts of the church.

The Decorated glass is contained in the great east window of the choir, that, viz., over the altar, and in the two clerestory windows adjoining on either side ; in the east and side windows of the ladye-chapel ; in the windows in the presbytery at the eastern extremity of the two choir-aisles, and in the tracery of the two windows on the north and south sides adjoining ; in some of the side windows of the aisles on either side the choir ; and lastly, in the windows of the chapter-house, and in the tracery of the two windows of the chapter-house staircase.

Of these examples, the east window of the choir, from its size and comparative perfection, demands the first attention. This beautiful window belongs to the class known as "Jesse windows," from the representation which they exhibit of the principal personages in the family of our Lord in or among the foliage of a vine, which springs up from the body of Jesse, who lies prostrate at the bottom of the composition. In the present instance each window-light is surrounded by a border of a pattern repeated elsewhere in the Cathedral. In alternate lights the border consists of yellow lions arranged between pieces of red

* Vide *Winston on Painted Glass*, Vol. I.

glass, and yellow crowns between pieces of blue glass. Within the border, surrounded by the foliage and tendrils of a vine, which sometimes cross their bodies, the principal figures stand under canopies. These figures, which are arranged in two tiers (exclusive of Jesse, who lies below), represent various Scripture personages in our Lord's genealogy, including Abraham, David, Solomon, Daniel, Hosea, and the Virgin and Child. It is worthy of remark that while the faces of the subordinate characters are, with the exception of a female (perhaps Ruth), formed of pink glass, those of the Blessed Virgin and her Child, as if by the force of contrast, to give them a greater prominence, are of a white colour. This truly splendid window, which is much out of repair, has been copied for the new church of All Saints, London, from tracings made by the late lamented Mr. Gerente. The lights of the four easternmost clerestory windows of the choir are ornamented with large figures of Saints standing under canopies. In one window the central figure is St. George; in another the middle figure is King Ethelbert. In the tracery of the two windows next the east, is pourtrayed the resurrection of the dead: above are angels blowing trumpets, while below the dead are rising from the opening tombs. The top of one of these tombs is marked with a cross flory. The waving patterns, principally of blue and white and red and white glass, in the tracery of the two remaining windows of this series, are remarkable for extreme elegance and beauty both in point of design and of harmonious colouring. The east window of the ladye-chapel has been restored by Mr. Williment. This window contains two rows of figures under canopies. In the upper tier are Noah, Abraham, David, Isaiah, and Malachi. In the lower tier are Eve, the Deceiving Serpent, the Virgin and Child, the Brazen

Serpent, and Moses. The Serpent tempting Eve is twining round a tree, and has a human face. Moses is depicted with horns, according to the old belief, combatted by Sir Thomas Browne of Norwich, in his quaint treatise on *Vulgar Errors*. In the lower part of the side windows of this chapel, little, beside some beautiful canopies, remains in situ ; in the tracery, however, some curious mitred heads and some elegant leaf-patterns still preserve their original situation. The windows of the east ends of the north and south choir-aisles, those, viz, next the ladye-chapel, are a jumble of broken pieces of glass from various places, but some of these are of value and interest. In the tracery of each of the two windows adjacent on the north and south sides, are some heads of Saints and Bishops, and a figure of our Lord seated. The tracery of three windows of the north aisle of the choir contains Decorated glass, which is as curious as it is beautiful. In two of these are Saints, (SS. Michael and John Baptist?) surrounded with an intricate pattern of conventional foliage. In the third is depicted the Crucifixion, with Saint John and the Virgin Mary. In this last design a great deal of light green glass is used, with very happy effect. To judge from the mutilated relics which still remain, the windows of the chapter-house must once have presented a truly glorious appearance. Now the upper part of the lights and the tracery alone possess any part of the beautiful ornament with which they were once adorned. The patterns are designed in red and white ; and a few medallions containing figures still remain ; but these last are much broken and sadly defaced. The chapter-house is commonly supposed to have been built by Bishop William de la Marchia, who was elected to the see in 1293, and died in 1302. The date of the glass is therefore subsequent to the latter

period ; as, however, in a shield of the royal arms those of France are emblazoned with those of England, it may be concluded that it was executed after the 10th year of King Edward III, A.D. 1337.

Of the Perpendicular style, there is little glass left in Wells Cathedral. The best earlier specimens are found in the south transept, where there are some elegant figures and some ornamental quarries, and in the clerestory window next the central tower on the north side of the nave. In this last position there are two figures, male and female, crowned. Later specimens of Perpendicular glass may be found in the choir-aisles ; the best of these represent the arms of England, and the badge of a couching stag. In the west window of the chapel of St. John, near the tomb of Deans Gunthorpe and Jenkyns, are some curious late Perpendicular quarries. Some of these display plants, others birds—such as eagles, ostriches, cocks, hens. One of the cocks is crowing, and holds a label, inscribed *Memento*, in black letter characters—in allusion, no doubt, to St. Peter, who *remembered* his Lord's words when the cock crew. In the windows of the Cathedral library there is a considerable quantity of glass of this period. In them the arms of Bishop Bubwith (a fess, engrailed, between three groups of conjoined holly-leaves, four in each) alternate with the arms of England ; each shield is surrounded with an elegant pattern. The remainder of each window is filled with quarries, on each of which is a plant of uniform type throughout. This series of windows supplies an excellent example for modern imitation, and for introduction in domestic buildings.

Of the Cinque Cento style there is some foreign glass in the central lancet at the west end of the nave.

Of the Intermediate style there are various shields of

arms in different windows, and two miserably washy figures of King Ina in the court costume of the eighteenth century, and of Bishop Ralph de Salopia in the western lancets. In the clerestory range of the choir are two modern memorial windows; and in St. John's chapel a window of painted glass has been placed at the expense of members of the Theological College. None of these last require especial comment. It is, however, much to be regretted that more care is not bestowed upon the ancient glass. The splendid Jesse window in the choir is far from being in a secure state, while the condition of the Perpendicular glass in the library is most precarious. Unless the lead-work of this last glass be speedily looked to, it will inevitably drop out, and then another memorial of the taste and munificence of former ages will be irretrievably lost. This would be the more lamentable, as signs are not wanting that the importance of preserving national antiquities is becoming daily more and more recognized, and that the rising generation is far more interested in the memorials of past ages than were their fathers.

Notices of the Rare and most Remark-
able Plants in the Neighbourhoods
of Dunster, Blue Anchor,
Minehead, &c.

BY MISS ISABELLA GIFFORD.

I AM quite aware that in offering so slight a sketch as the present to the notice of this Society, I can give but a very imperfect idea of the rich and varied Flora of this part of Somerset. It is only after a careful enumeration of species, and by a comparison of their greater variety or frequency in the adjoining districts, that the Flora of any particular district can be correctly estimated. Were such comparison fully carried out between Somerset and Devon, I have no doubt that the number of species in this county would equal those recorded in Devon, and that this district, from its bordering the sea, would afford many species not found in any other parts of the county.

Commencing with such, I would notice *Cochlearia danica*, a plant which occurs in crevices of the rocks near the sea under Greenaleigh and at Bossington Point. *Arenaria pe-*

ploides grows, but very sparingly, on the Warren near Minehead, and I have noticed the salt wort (*Salsoli kali*) appear occasionally near the same spot. *Erodium maritimum* is exceedingly common in sandy and grassy places close to the sea ; it also grows at some distance from it, on the summit of Grabhurst, on Minehead Hill, and on a wall near Alcombe—three rather unlikely situations for this species. *Erodium cicutarium* (common hemlock stork's bill) is frequent with white blossoms on Minehead Warren, and I remark that a similar change of colour is observable in the following when growing in the same locality—viz., *Lycopsis vulgaris*, *Cynoglossum officinale*, *Myosotis collina*, *Carduus arvensis*, and *Veronica chamædrys*. These, with the exception of the last named species, are all common with white blooms, though plants of the usual colours are likewise to be seen in the same spot. Some of the remaining peculiarly maritime plants of the district are, *Euphorbia paralias*, *Plantago maritimum*, *Triglochin maritimum*, *Juncus maritimus*, *Scirpus maritimus*, *Phleum arenaria*, *Glaux maritima*, *Salicornia herbacea*, *Schoberia maritima*, *Aster tripolium*, *Artemisia maritima*, *Armeria maritima*, at the mouth of the river Hone ; *Silene maritima*, at Blue Anchor. *Trifolium maritimum* was observed by Mr. Babington when botanizing there some years ago. I may here remark that the Flora at and near Blue Anchor is particularly interesting. *Ophrys apifera* (bee orchis), *Ophrys muscifera* (fly orchis), *Habenaria chlorantha*, *Orchis pyramidalis*, *latifolia*, *mascula*, and *Listera ovata*, are among the Orchideæ that occur there. The other remarkable plants in that neighbourhood are *Chlora perfoliata*, *Vicia bithynica*, *Lathyrus aphaca*, *sylvestris*, and *Nissolia*. This latter also grows in the vicinity of Minehead. *Viburnum lantana* (mealy guelder rose) is common in the

hedge-rows about Blue Anchor. In the vicinity of Dunster the botanist has a good opportunity of studying the Rubi. I am assured by Mr. Lees, the well-known investigator of this genus, that the woods around are particularly rich in the various species. In the wood surrounding Conygar Tower I have collected *Rubus amplificatus*, *rosaceus*, *Sprengelii*, and all the commoner kinds. Near Boniton Wood, and in the woods along the Timberscombe road, occurs a peculiar species of raspberry, named *Rubus Leesii* by Mr. Babington, in honour of Mr. Lees, who first discovered it at Ilford Bridges, near Lynton.

The specific differences will at once be seen on examination with the common kind, *Rubus idæus*, which grows commonly in the same woods. They also afford *Rubus suberectus*, *rudus*, *fuscus*, *villicaulis*, *Lindleianus*, *amplificatus*, *vestitus*, *cordifolius*, and others of this interesting but, until lately, little investigated genus. *Melittis melissophyllum* grows in the woods on the road-side near Cutcombe, and *Mecanopsis cambrica* near Stowey Mill and in Culbone Woods, near Porlock. On Dunkery, the rarest flowering plant is one of the Orchideæ, *Listera cordata*. With the exception of Coddon Hill, near Barnstaple, this is the only station for it in the West of England. *Empetrum nigrum*, *Lycopodium clavatum*, also grows on Porlock Hill; selago and alpinum are in this district confined to Dunkery. The small patches of boggy ground that occur on the hills produce *Eriophorum vaginatum*, and *angustifolia*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Erica tetralix*, *Hypericum elodes*, and other less conspicuous species. Bordering the little rivulets which take their course down the sheltered combes, may be observed one of the rarest plants of the district, and until the last few years only known as a native of Cornwall—this is the delicate

little creeping plant, *Sibthorpia Europœa* (Cornish moneywort). It generally grows associated with the tiny little ivy-leaved harebell, *Wahlenbergia hederacea* and *Anagallis tenella*. In these combes all the ferns common to such situations may be found ; *Athyrium filix-fœmina* in one or two varieties ; *Blechnum boreale*, *Lastrea oreopteris*, *dilatata fœnisecii*, and *Filix-mas* ; the incised variety I have gathered on Conygar Hill, in Periton Combe, and elsewhere. The other ferns growing in the district, but selecting other habitats, are *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Ruta-muraria*, *Adiantum-nigrum*. *Asplenium marinum*, I believe, grows under Bossington Point ; and *Asplenium septentrionale** has been found in the parish of Porlock, and “on the borders of Devon and Somerset.” *Ceterach officinarum* may be seen on old walls at Stanton, Minehead, and Allerford. The incised variety called *Cambricum* of *Polypodium vulgare*, I have observed in Bossington Woods, and the several multifid varieties of the common *Scolopendrium vulgare* are frequent in the hedges about Minehead. *Aspidium angulare* in its various forms adorns the hedge-banks ; and *Pteris aquilina* (the common bracken) grows as far up the hills as cultivation is practicable,

* I am indebted to the Rev. G. B. Warren, of Exeter, for a specimen of *Asplenium septentrionale*, obtained from a station near Culbone, and which, I believe, is the locality alluded to by Newman in his *History of British Ferns*, as being “near Glenthorn, about six miles from the boundary of Devon.” All the stations hitherto observed for the fern have been on the Somerset side of the boundary. In North Devon, Mr. Warren informs me, he has often searched for it, but has never yet seen or heard of it across the borders, though very probably it may be found on Countisbury or Brendon. *Botrychium Lunaria*, Mr. Warren further informs me, he has seen growing near Meyn Farm, and *Ophioglossum vulgatum* is said to be found in meadows near Selworthy. *Aspidium aculeatum* does not, I believe, appear in this district, according to a writer in the *Phytologist* for May, 1854. *A. angulare* and *A. aculeatum* rarely grow together in the same district ; and *A. angulare* is rare in the North of England, showing its tendency to be tender.

attaining the highest position in the cultivated region, or "Agrarian Region" of the author of the *Cybele Britannica*. On reference to my lists, I find upwards of 550 flowering plants and ferns recorded as growing in this district. Arranging these according to their "types of distribution," ten, or perhaps more, belong to the "Atlantic type"—that is, "species that have their head-quarters in the south-west of England, and run out northward and eastward;" two to the Germanic type, viz., *Ophrys apifera* and *muscifera*; and one only to the "Highland type," *Lycopodium alpinum*, which reaches its southernmost limits in this part of the county; three appertain to the "Scottish type," *Empetrum nigrum*, *Listera cordata*, and *Lycopodium selago*; 108 to the "English type," "species which have their head-quarters in England, especially in the southern provinces, and become rare and finally cease altogether towards the north." The rest, with the exception of a few of uncertain type, belong to the "British type," species which are more or less generally diffused throughout the whole extent of Britain.

The foregoing is necessarily but a hasty attempt at estimating the number of indigenous species; it neither includes varieties nor any species doubtfully wild. In the plants particularly specified, I believe I have named some of those most worthy of notice; but as there is no work published on the botany generally of this county to which reference can be made, I am in doubt whether I may not have called attention to species more universally distributed over the county than I am aware of. As regards the littoral species, possibly *all* those observed here range along the whole extent of the Somerset coast. In a short list appended to the *Natural History of Portishead*, I see the names of many such. In a county so extensive as this,

with such variety of soil and aspect, there is a very wide field afforded for the botanist, and it is not a little surprising, and much to be lamented, that there is no published Flora of Somerset, containing in its pages all the necessary information. In the literature of botany, county or local Floras become of much account—such, for instance, are Leighton's *Flora of Shropshire*, and Mr. Baker's recently published supplement to the *Flora of Yorkshire*—books the value of which are well known to botanists.

Before closing this paper, I would beg leave to suggest to persons interested in the science, the benefit which may accrue to its more complete study by their noting down the species occurring in their respective neighbourhoods, in the last edition of the *London Catalogue of British Plants*—the one generally employed for that purpose by English botanists.

The enclosing of commons and waste land, and progress of agricultural improvements generally, must unavoidably destroy the habitats of many rare plants, and in some instances lead to their extinction; such, I fear, is the case with *Chrysocoma lynosiris* and *Lobelia urens*, which used formerly to grow near Axminster. Therefore, it is particularly desirable that a record should be kept of rare indigenous plants. Some few species there are, such as *Veronica Buxbaumii*, which become naturalized in our fields by the agency of the farmer, who scatters the germ unwittingly along with his clover or other seed obtained from the Continent; and though the botanist may not look with an unfriendly eye upon the "foreigner," he still feels that it cannot make amends for our native plants, the growth of our native soil, introduced by no human agency, placed in their appointed spot by the Almighty will, flourishing for long years the "flowers of the waste," and

dying, at the approach of cultivation, like the Red Indian disappearing from his hunting-grounds before the advancing footsteps of the white man. But if the destruction of the natural vegetation of a country be a mournful sight to a botanist, no less is the re-appearance of vegetation over the ruined habitation of man a melancholy and interesting spectacle to all. The ivy, the same plant that hangs and spreads itself over the wildest cliffs, covers and supports the ruined walls with its evergreen mantle. On the proudest edifices of bygone days we see the lichens appearing :

“Those living stains which Nature’s hand alone,
Profuse of life, pours forth upon the stone ;
For ever growing where the common eye
Can but the bare and rocky bed descry.
These all increase, till in unnoticed years
The stony tower as grey with age appears,
With coats of vegetation thinly spread,
Coat above coat, the living on the dead ;
These then dissolve to dust, and make away
For bolder foliage ; nursed by their decay,
The long-enduring Ferns in time will all
Die, and depose their dust upon the wall—
Where the winged seed will rest, till many a flower
Shows Flora’s triumph on the falling tower.”

CRABBE.

On the Geological Formations in the Neighbourhood of Dunster.

BY REV. W. ARTHUR JONES, M.A.

ALL the lofty hills and high land in this district, including Dunkery Beacon, the north hill at Minehead, Grabhurst Hill, and the Croydon range, with the outlying Quantocks, belong to a geological formation, which for a long time was known as the Grauwacke, but is now more frequently called the Devonian series. On the declivities and near the base of these hills, we find another series of rocks of more recent origin, which, while they skirt the upheaved masses of the older formation, in many places rest upon them in such a manner as clearly to prove that they were deposited after and upon the older sedimentary formations. These rocks are known as the *red-sandstone* series, which, for the most part, compose the lower hills, and supply the characteristic red marls of the lowlands. The red-sandstone, in its turn, is succeeded by later formations. Hence we find the *lias* overlying the red-sandstone along the coast of the Bristol Channel, and

occurring in such circumstances as to leave no doubt of the order in point of time in which they succeeded each other. And in the marsh land, extending from Dunster to Minehead on the one hand, and to Blue Anchor on the other, we have the comparatively very recent *alluvial* deposit, covering over the remains of primæval forests, portions of the foliage and timber of which are exposed to view every day at low water, between Minehead harbour and the Warren point.

These geological formations severally, and as associated together, present features of great interest, and in a striking manner illustrate and confirm the theories of the geologist respecting the physical history of the world. It is not, however, my intention to enter upon the great problems connected with some of the phenomena which this neighbourhood presents; but rather to seize on the more striking features, and to endeavour to present them so associated and connected together that we may be able in some measure to understand the ground over which we travel in our excursions, and with more pleasure to contemplate the physical characteristics of the country, and the vast and mighty agencies by which, through countless ages, these stupendous effects have been produced.

First, then, in point of time, we come to the Grauwacke, or Devonian series, embracing sedimentary rocks differing from each other in some particulars, yet, on the whole, presenting common features which enable the close observer, without hesitation, to refer them to the same great epoch. The term *sedimentary* is applied to this series from the undoubted evidence the rock itself affords of its being the result of the gradual settling of the sandy and mineral matter held in suspension by the troubled waters of that period. When, therefore, we enquire into

the origin of these lofty hills, the revelations of geological science refer us to the time when the now upheaved heights of Dunkery, and Brendon, and Quantock, formed the seabeds, over which rolled the waves and billows of a boisterous ocean, and into and upon which were precipitated from the vast laboratory which Almighty power alone could form, and Infinite Wisdom alone direct, the metals and minerals which are dispersed among them. The various beds of rock included in this series present varying features, according to the varying circumstances in which the deposits occurred. The direction and force of different currents, together with the varying character of the rocks the detrital matter of which they held in suspension, would necessarily affect the character of the deposit in different localities. Hence we find the rocks of this series more or less calcareous, more or less sandy ; in some places altogether devoid of any traces of organic remains, in others crowded with fragments of corals and of encrinites. The Museum of the Society contains a variety of organic remains found in strata belonging to this series on the Quantock Hills. The honour and merit of the discovery (which is comparatively recent) belong to Mr. Pring, of Taunton, to whom the Society is indebted for many beautiful specimens, and valuable services in the geological department. But while a few beds abound with remains of encrinites and corals, the great mass would seem to be devoid of them. From this we are led to infer that forms of organic life did not abound in the seas of that period ; or if they did, that they were for the most part exposed to such destroying agencies as to prevent their being preserved in the deposits then formed.

It is interesting, however, to observe traces of the analogies which prevail between the seas of that remote

period and those of tropical climes of the present day. The Ordnance Geological Map of this district exhibits streaks or bands of lime-stone interspersed among the rocks of the Devonian series. Thus you have a belt trending from near Withycombe to Treborough, on the Croydon Hills, and patches occur on the Quantocks. Some of these abound to such an extent with calcareous skeletons of corals and madrepores that we cannot fail to regard the bands and streaks of lime-stone which occur among the sedimentary beds as remains of coral reefs, akin to those which, in our own days, are piled up by the wondrous agency of the zoophytic race. So marvellously perfect are the fossil remains when imbedded in the lime-stone rocks, that polished specimens present the minutest features of their organization. During the time we kept living specimens of actiniæ and other zoophytes in our Museum, at Taunton, we had an opportunity of observing this fact. One beautiful actinia had attached its base to the side of a glass vase, and thus exhibited practically a horizontal section of its organism. We placed beside it a polished slab of Over-Stowey limestone, with a corresponding horizontal section of a fossil coral. Neither the naturalist nor the artist could desire a more faithful representation of the base of the living zoophyte than was afforded by the polished section of the fossil coral. But while these coral reefs were being built up, and while these rocks were being deposited in the bed of primæval seas, there were vast and mighty agencies at work, indications of which present themselves in various portions of this formation. Some of these beds were upheaved after they had attained to their present solid form; but others were manifestly disturbed, while as yet they were in a semi-liquid condition. The contortions and curvatures in

the slates and rocks, as exhibited in the cliffs between Minehead and Hurlstone Point, as well as elsewhere, clearly prove that the volcanic or other agency to which they are to be referred acted upon the deposit while it was yet in a plastic state, for the curve line is unbroken, and the strata present no such fractures, as would necessarily result from similar action on rocks which had already become hardened. That the period during which the deposit took place was one of great volcanic disturbance is evident from the general character of the stratification; and the elevated position and irregular outline of the district equally prove that by some great convulsion of nature the sea-beds became changed into mountain heights, and the waters of the ocean were thrown into new channels.

Then began, in the bottom of this new sea, a new geological formation. From the manner in which the new red sand-stone series rests upon the Devonian rocks in various parts of conjunction both on the Quantocks and the Brendon Hills,* it is clear that they are the deposit of an ocean whose margin, in this neighbourhood at least, was the uplifted district of the Devonian series. At that time—(and I would observe in passing that when the geologist speaks of time, he does not count by years, but by ages and cycles of ages, far exceeding the power of human computation)—at that time, it is evident that what are now the Quantock Hills was an island lying off shore, separated from the main land by the trough or channel, now indicated by the red sand-stone rocks and marls of the valley running from Williton into Taunton Deane. The hill on which Cunnegar Tower stands was likewise

* A beautiful instance of conjunction occurs in the lane leading from Withycombe to the Fire-beacon.

isolated ; for while the hill itself belongs to the Devonian series, its base is surrounded by the red sand-stone deposit.

The special object of this paper will not admit of our entering on the probable extent of surface over which the seas of the *New red sand-stone* extended. We must, therefore, confine our observations to that portion which belongs to this immediate neighbourhood. Most of the characteristic features which distinguish the series present themselves in this locality. We have the conglomerate, into the composition of which fragments of the rocks composing the neighbouring hills enter largely. We have the finer detrital matter, in the form of sand, held together by a natural red ferruginous cement, and the various grades and shades between these two. We have the red marl, which forms so striking a feature in the agricultural aspect of our large valleys. And as in the Devonian, so likewise in the red sand-stone, we have streaks or bands of limestone. The cementing matter of the conglomerate limestone contains so large a proportion of magnesia as to obtain the name of magnesian lime-stone. In some places it contains rounded fragments of the Devonian rocks, united in one solid mass by a magnesio-calcareous cement, thus clearly indicating its origin and the circumstances under which it was formed.

The lower beds of the red sand-stone series are peculiarly interesting in this neighbourhood, from their affording in great purity the only truly precious metal of our country—I mean *iron*. If you refer to the Geological Map you will observe that during the time the red sand-stone was deposited, a gulf of the sea must have occupied the opening at Porlock, skirting Luccombe, and flowing up as high as Timberscombe. At the

head of that gulf, in the beds of red sandstone, at Luccombe and Brockwell, as many of you are aware, is found the red *hæmatite* iron. It occurs in large patches, mixed up with the sandstone and conglomerates peculiar to the series, and is worked in the open quarry ; and it seems that near Porlock the rock upon which the new red sandstone rests contains veins of brown hæmatite. This, very probably, is the source from whence was derived the red hæmatite of the succeeding formation. Copper has likewise been found in the same formation. At Treborough and Luxborough, in the rocks of the Devonian series, a peculiarly rich iron-ore has recently been found, the discovery of which is of national importance. In quality this metal is said to be equal to the best Silesian iron, and in quantity more abundant.

The value of these mineral treasures has long been known by the successive generations and races of men that have occupied this district. That the Romans worked these mines is most clearly proved by the coins, and mining implements, which have been discovered in the refuse matter in this neighbourhood. How they worked, and to what extent they brought their characteristic energy to bear upon these sources of wealth, would be an interesting subject for investigation, and one peculiarly within the province of this our Archæological Society. On this subject, however, I must not enter, as I desire to confine myself to the physical aspects of the district.

While, then, we have *iron* in the lower beds of this series, we have *gypsum* in the higher beds. This mineral, which may be described as the *crystals of native sulphate of lime*, occurs in the red-marl, on the coast near Blue Anchor, sometimes in isolated masses ; at other times in veins lying parallel to, and between layers of, the marl ; and occasion-

ally passing in thin laminae through the intermediate layers, and thus connecting the successive strata together. While valuable as an article of commerce, it also adds considerably to the striking appearance of the rocks on the sea-coast in which it abounds.

But we must leave the sandstone, and pass on to the *LIAS*. And, in order fully to comprehend the transition, we must imagine the bed of the sea to be again changed, its waters to be drained off, the red sandstone deposits become dry land. In fact in this neighbourhood the red sand-stone series with its marls constituted the lowland shore of the *Lias* sea. In this new sea a new deposit takes place, and a record of each change is faithfully preserved in the imperishable archives of creation. Yea, a record, not only of each change, but of the varying forms of organic life peculiar to each period, and, not unfrequently, of the agencies, chemical and dynamical, by which the changes were produced. The sea-cliffs between Watchet and Sherton Bars afford most interesting and instructive sections of this portion of the earth's crust, and show, with great accuracy and minuteness, how the strata succeeded each other, and point most unmistakeably to many of the disturbing influences to which this series of rocks has been subjected.

The natural sections presented in the cliffs on the coast clearly show that the *lias* was deposited upon the red-sandstone. In very many places the strata lie conformably, one above the other; in other places they seem to abut against each other, yet always in circumstances which clearly indicate the action of great disturbing forces. The disturbance in the stratification of the rocks, technically termed a *fault*, as presented in the section of the cliff near Lilstoke, is only one of a great many, the traces of which are left in the change

of dip in the strata, which is very considerable ; and in the few points of difficulty which occur at Blue Anchor, as to the relative position of the lias and red marl, there can be no doubt the obscurity is to be referred to these disturbing causes. During which particular geological period the disturbing cause was in operation, it is impossible to determine. The probability is there was a succession of convulsions. Some evidently occurred while the lias beds were plastic, for they are curved so regularly, and with so unbroken a line, as would be impossible if the rock had become indurated. Others have taken place long after, as the great disturbance in the stratification clearly indicates.

While these changes were going on, and the lias was being deposited, the sea-shores of that period were crowded with living creatures, differing most widely from those of the present time, yet presenting analogies which help the comparative anatomist to determine the simple types according to which animated being appears to have been arranged by the great Creator. To reproduce the living forms of that period—to re-people the shores of that ancient sea—to look into the deep pools swarming with strange and beautiful forms of life—would seem almost to require a spirit's vision and a super-human power. But it is not so in reality. The record of that time, as writ by the finger of God upon the very rocks themselves, supplies the knowledge we need, and almost all the information we require. The fossil remains are so abundant, and in general so well preserved, that we have little difficulty as to the main features of the Fauna of that period. The animals themselves stand before us. Shoals of *Ammonites* and *Nautili* crowd near the shore, now floating on the surface in their chambered shells, with their formidable arms stretched out in search of prey, and in an instant disappearing, on the

approach of danger, and sinking into the sea-depths by the aid of their syphon. With rapid backward motion, their kindred, the *Sepiæ* and *Loligenes*, the cuttle-fish of that period, dart after their prey, and then, as now, when attacked in its turn, envelope themselves in a cloud of black ink, and so make their escape. Close by, in deep pools and on rocky ledges, the marvellous encrinite lifts its tall stem, spreads out its thousand arms, opens its flower-like petals—every stem, every arm, every petal, built up of thousands and tens of thousands of separate joints, and each joint moveable and supplied with the requisite muscular apparatus. While we gaze on the marvellous beauty of this plant-like star-fish, near the shore, the huge *Ichthyosaurus* plunges into the deep waters after its prey, devouring everything within reach, not sparing even the young of its own species. Leaving these Saurian monsters of the deep—part lizard and part fish—which for the most part frequent the deep waters, we look with wonder on the *Plesiosaurus*—a creature with the body of a fish, the tail of a crocodile, the head of a lizard, and a long neck like a huge snake, now swan-like swimming on the sea, and anon clambering along the shore—not improbably on this very spot of earth where we are now met to talk of them and their times. Then, more curious than all, we behold flitting around us that most extraordinary compound of bird and bat and lizard, the *Pterodactyl*—a creature which the renowned Cuvier pronounced the furthest removed of any from the types of living beings with which we are acquainted. That these forms of life existed here we know, for the rocks in this neighbourhood contain their skeletons, and their remains most clearly explain the habits of their life.

Such are a few among the leading facts in the history

of the earth's crust, which the rocks in this district afford. I have not attempted to do more than state them in their simplest form. This will suffice for those who have already paid attention to the subject, and, I trust, serve to induce others to study this most delightful and interesting department of physical science, and thus, likewise, to promote one of the objects of our Society—the cultivation and advancement of the Natural History of the county of Somerset.

This paper was very fully illustrated with enlarged copies of drawings and sections of the coast made by the late Mr. W. Baker, of Bridgwater. For some of these, as well as for large maps of the district geologically coloured, the Society is indebted to Mr. J. D. Pring, of Taunton.

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THIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its objects shall be, the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History, in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset.

II. The Society shall consist of a Patron, elected for life; a President, elected for three years; Vice-Presidents; General, and District or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected.—No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III. Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint; of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV. There shall also be a General Meeting fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting Business.—All members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V. The Committee is empowered to call Special Meetings of the Society, upon receiving a requisition signed by ten members.—Three weeks' notice of such Special Meeting, and its object, shall be given to each Member.

VI. The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the officers of the Society shall be *ex-officio* Members) which shall hold Monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and Sub-committees, and for transacting other necessary business; five of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings, after the official business has been transacted.

VII. The Chairman, at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member.

VIII. One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. All Manuscripts, and Communications, and the other property of the Society, shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX. Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two Members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the members present balloting shall elect. The rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X. Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members, and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

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N.B. One of the objects of the Society shall be to collect, by donation or purchase, a Library and Museum, more particularly illustrating the History (Natural, Civil, and Ecclesiastical) of the County of Somerset.

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 Brown, William, *Bridgwater*
 Broome, C. E. *Elmhurst, Batheaston*
 Bruford, T. *Nailsea*
- 70 Bryant, Rev. W. F. *Taunton*
 Brymer, J. S. 76, *Pulteney-street, Bath*
 Buckle, Rev. G. *Twerton*
 Bullock, George, *East Coker*
 Bush, W. 7, *Circus, Bath*
- 75 Carew, T. G. Warrington, *Crowcombe Court, (deceased)*
 Castle, T. *Worle*
 Carver, R. *Haines Hill, Taunton*
 Cavan, the Earl of, *Barford House*
 Cave, G. Norton *Fitzwarren*

- 80 Cave, T. *Yeovil*
 Chamberlain, G. *Castle Cary*
 Chilcott, Rev. W. F. *Monksilver*
 Chowne, Rev. J. *Netherbury, Dorset*
 Clarke, T. E. *Tremlett House*
- 85 Clarke, A. A. *Taunton*
 Clerk, Rev. D. M. *Kingston Deveril, Wilts*
 Clerk, Robert, *Westholme House, Pilton, Shepton Mallet*
 Clerk, E. H.
 Clutterbuck, Rev. Henry, *"Buckland" Dinham, "Frome"*
- 90 Coffin, Com. Genl. Sir E. P. *Claremont Villa, Exeter*
 Coker, T. *Taunton*
 Coker, W. Worthington, *Bournemouth, Dorset*
 Colebrooke, Sir T. E. Bart. *Abington, Scotland*
 Coles, Rev. J. S. *Shepton Beauchamp*
- 95 Collings, Rev. W. T. *Le Manoir Serk, Guernsey*
 Cooper, Lady, *Leversdown House*
 Cordwent, G. *Taunton*
 Cornish, C. H. „
 Cotterell, Jacob H. *Bath*
- 100 Cox, W. *Brockley, near Yatton*
 Crosse, Andrew, *Broomfield, (deceased)*
 Crotch, Rev. W. R. *Stoke Court, Taunton*
 Culverwell, John, *Williton*
 Custard, H. M. *Yeovil*
- 105 Dance, Lady, *Bishop's Hull*
 Dance, Rev. G. *Swainswick, Bath*
 David, J. *Bloomfield, Taunton*
 Davies, Edmund, *Wells*
 Davies, Henry, *Weston-super-Mare*
- 110 Davis, Horatio, *Mount Beacon House, Bath*
 Davis, C. E. *Bath*
 Davis, W. W. *Oakhill, Taunton*
 Davis, H. *Taunton*
 Dawe, Rev. Hill, *Ditcheat*
- 115 Dawson, T. *Trull*
 De Haviland, Rev. C. R. *Downside, Bath*
 De l'Hoste, Lieut.-Col. E. *Taunton*
 Dickinson, F. H. *Kingweston House*
 Dickinson, E. H. „
- 120 Doveton, Capt. *Haines Hill, Taunton*
 Down, E., *Exeter*

Dowty, F. G. *Bridgwater*

Easton, R. *Taunton*

Edmunds, E. jun. *Bradford, Wilts*

125 Edwards, Rev. H. *Churchstanton*

Edwards, R. P. *Wedmore*

Egremont, Countess of, *Orchard Wyndham*

Elliot, Miss, *Osborne House, Taunton*

Elliot, W. F. „ „

130 Elliott, Rev. J. *Pitminster*

Ellison, Rev. N. T. *Huntspill*

Else, R. C. *Bridgwater*

Elwell, J. *Weston-super-Mare*

Elwell, W. O. „

135 Escott, Miss, *Hartrow House*

Esdaile, E. J. *Cothelstone House*

Esdaile, W. C. D. *Barley Park, Ringwood, Hants*

Eskersall, Miss, *Bathwick Hill, Bath*

Estlin, J. P. *Bridgwater*

140 Fagan, Rev. G. H. *Kingweston*

Falconer, R. W. M.D. *Bath*

Falkner, Francis, „

Falkner, Frederick, „

Falkner, F. H. „

145 Field, F. „

Fisher, J. M. *Taunton*

Fisher, T. „

Fiske, H. „

Fitzgerald, Rev. A. O. *Charlton Mackerel*

150 Foley, Rev. R. *North Cadbury*

Follett, Spencer Brent, M.P. 15, *Cambridge-sq., London*

Foster, W. J. S. *Wells*

Foster, F. *Taunton (deceased)*

Fox, C. J. M.D. *Brislington*

155 Fox, E. F. „

Fuller, Thomas, 4, *Richmond Hill, Bath*

Fullar, T. 2, *Grafton Place, Park Lane, Bath*

Gandy, G. *The Chain, Preston, Lancashire*

Gandy, Rev. J. H. *Old Cleeve*

160 Garrod, James, *Wells*

- Giles, W. *Taunton*
 Giles, C. E. „
 Giles, Capt. *Dinder*
 Gill, J. E. *Bath*
 165 Gillett, W. E. *Fairwater, Taunton*
 Girardot, Rev. W. *Hinton Charterhouse*
 Gordon, James, *Weston-super-Mare*
 Goodford, Rev. C. O. D.D. Head Master of *Eton*
 Goodford, Henry, *Chilton Cantelo*
 170 Gould, Rev. W. *Hatch Beauchamp*
 Grenville, Ralph Neville, *Butleigh, Glastonbury*

 Hagley, E. *Holywell, Oxford*
 Hamilton, Col. J. 116, *Park-st. Grosvenor-sq., London*
 Hamilton, Rev. L. R. *Castle Cary*
 175 Hancock, W. *Wiveliscombe*
 Harbin, G. *Newton House, Yeovil*
 Hardy, Admiral, *Bath*
 Hardy, Lieut, R.N. „
 Harris, Charles, *Ilchester*
 180 Harrison, Rev. O. S. *Thorn Faulcon*
 Harrison, T. S. M.D. *Frome*
 Hathway, Rev. R. C. *Kewstoke*
 Haviland, Alfred, *Bridgwater*
 Hawkins, Rev. H. C. H. *Chilton-super-Polden*
 185 Hayter, Rt. Hon. W. G. M.P. *Hyde Park Terrace, London*
 Hayward, S. 7, *Oxford Terrace, Bath*
 Helyar, C. J. *Poundisford Park*
 Helyar, W. W. *Coker Court, Yeovil*
 Henderson, J. jun. *Taunton (deceased)*
 190 Higgs, Richard, *Haines Hill, Taunton*
 Highmore, J. N. *Preston, Yeovil*
 Hitchcock, W. R. *Taunton*
 Hill, Rev. R. *Timsbury, Bath*
 Hill, Miss, *Rock House* „
 195 Hill, Wm. John, *Langport*
 Hood, Sir A. A. Bart. *St. Audries*
 Hooper, James, *Highgate, London*
 Horner, Rev. J. S. H. *Mells Park, Frome*
 Hosegood, George, *Huish Barton*
 200 Hoskins, T. *Hazelbury*
 Hunt, E. *River-st., Bath*

Hutchings, H. 13, *Chester-st., Grosvenor Place, London*

Ilchester, the Earl of, *Melbury, Sherborne, Dorset*
 Isaacs, G. *Taunton*

205 Jacobson, W. *Taunton*

Jeboult, J.

Jeffrey, James, *Orange Grove, Bath*

Johnson, Rev. F. C. *Whitelackington*

Jones, Rev. W. A. *Taunton*

210 Kelly, W. M. M.D., *Taunton*

Kemmis, Mrs. Arthur, *Croham Hurst, Croydon, Surrey*

Kidgell, G. *Wellington*

Kilvert, Rev. F. *Cleverton Lodge, Bath*

King, H. D. *Taunton*

215 King, Rev. C. *Stoke St. Gregory*

King, J. W. *Chilton-super-Polden*

King, R. M. *Pyrland Hall*

Kinglake, R. A. *Weston-super-Mare*

Kinglake, H. M.D. *Taunton*

220 Kingsbury, J.

Knatchbull, W. F. M.P. *Babington House*

Knowles, C. *Bridgwater*

Knyfton, T. T. *Uphill*

*Labouchere, Rt. Hon. H. M.P. *Stoke Park, Slough, Bucks*

225 Lake, F. *Taunton*

Lambert, W. C. *Knowle House, Wimborne, Dorset*

Lance, Rev. J. E. *Buckland St. Mary*

Langton, W. H. P. G. M.P. *Hatch Park, Taunton*

Langton, W. H. G. M.P. *Clifton*

230 Law, Worshipful Chancellor J. T. *Banwell*

Lawson, Henry, *Lansdown Crescent, Bath (deceased)*

Leigh, Henry, 1, *Elm Court Temple, London*

Lethbridge, A. G. *Trull*

Leversedge, John, *Taunton*

235 Liddon, H.

Lindsey, G.

Littlehales, Rev. W. *Compton Bishop*

Livett, H. W. *Wells*

Lock, E. *Halcon Lodge*

- 240 Lockey, Rev. F. *Swainswick, Bath*
 Long, W. *Lansdown Place* „
 Lopes, Ralph Ludlow, *Tetton House*
 Lovelace, the Earl of, *Ashley Combe, Porlock*
 Luke, Rev. H. V. *Thurlbear*
- 245 Lutley, R. E. *Stogursey*
- Mansell, J. C. *Shaftesbury, Dorset*
 Manners, G. P. *Bath*
 Markland, J. H. „
 Marshall, W. *Taunton*
- 250 May, Frederick, *Taunton*
 Mayhew, T. *Glastonbury*
 Meade, Rev. R. J. *Castle Cary*
 Metford, W. M.D. *Flook House, Taunton*
 Michell, Rev. R. B.D. *Magdalen Hall, Oxford*
- 255 Mildmay, Paulet St. John, *Haselbury, Wincanton*
 Miles, W. M.P. *Leigh Court*
 Miller, George Layng, *Alcombe*
 Mist, Miss, *Bradford*
 Mogg, J. R. *High Lyttleton House*
- 260 Mogg, J. F. Y. *Midsomer Norton*
 Moody, C. A. M.P. *Kingsdon, Somerton*
 Moor, Rev. R. W. *Stoke St. Gregory*
 Moore, C. *Cambridge Place, Bath*
 Morle, Thomas, *Cannington Park*
- 265 Morris, J. *Bath*
 Moysey, H. G. *Bathealton Court*
 Munckton, W. W. *Curry Rivel*
 Murch, E. *Bridgwater*
 Murch, Rev. Jerom, *Bath*
- 270 Murley, G. B. *Langport*
- Naish, B. *Stone Easton*
 Neal, Miss, *Pen House, Yeovil*
 Newton, F. W. *Barton Grange*
 Nicholetts, J. *South Petherton*
- 275 Nichols, Rev. W. L. *Lansdown Crescent, Bath*
 Norman, G. 1, *Circus, Bath*
 Norman, W. *Ashfield, Taunton, (deceased)*
 Norman, A. M. *Christ Church, Oxford*
 Norman, J. *Staplegrave, Taunton*

- 280 Norman, J. F. *Claverham, near Yatton*
 Norris, J. *Thorncombe*
 Nutting, Rev. H. *Chedzoy*
- Ormond, J. *Circus, Bath*
 Oakley, W. *Taunton*
- 285 Paget, J. M. *Cranmore Hall, Shepton Mallet*
 Paget, Arthur J. S. „
 Palairet, Rev. R. *Norton St. Philip* „
 Parr, Rev. H. *Taunton*
 Parfitt, Rev. C. C. *Midford Castle, Bath*
- 290 Paul, Rev. C. S. *Wellow*
 Patton, Capt. T. R.N. *Bishops Hull*
 Payne, J. H. 1, *Brunswick-square, Bristol*
 Pearless, Richard,
 Penny, Rev. C. D.D. *Crewkerne*
- 295 Penny, Mrs. John, *Taunton*
 Perceval, Capt. *Chapel Cleeve*
 Perry, Rev. G. G. *Warrington Rectory, near Lincoln*
 Phelps, Rev. W. (deceased)
 Philipps, Dan, *Bridgwater*
- 300 Pinchard, W. P. *Taunton*
 Pinder, Rev. Professor, *Wells*
 Pinney, W. M.P. *Somerton Erleigh*
 Pinney, Miss, „ „
 Pitman, S. *Rumhill*
- 305 Plowman, T. *North Curry*
 Pollard, G. *Taunton*
 Poole, G. S. *Bridgwater*
 Poole, J. R. „
 Poole, Rev. J. *Enmore*
- 310 Popham, F. *Bagborough House*
 Porch, T. P. *Edgarley*
 *Portman, Lord, *Bryanston House, Dorset*
 Powell, H. *Wells*
 Prance, V.
- 315 Pranker, John, *Langport*
 Pring, J. D. *Taunton*
 Pring, J. H. M.D. *Weston-super-Mare*
 Pulman, Rev. W. W. *Wellington*
 Pulteney, Rev. R. T. *Ashley Rectory, Northamptonshire*

- 320 Pyne, Rev. W. *Charlton, Somerton*
 Quantock, J. M. *Norton-sub-Hamdon*
 Quekett, E. *Langport*
- Raban, R. B. *Hatch Beauchamp*
 Raban, Lt.-Col. „ „
- 325 *Ramsden, Sir. J. W. Bart., M.P. *Byham, Yorkshire*
 Rawle, T. *Taunton*
 Redfern, Rev. W. T. *Taunton*
 Rhodes, Rev. E. D. *Hampton Villa, Bath*
 Richards, Rev. T. M. *Alcombe*
- 330 Richards, W. „
 Robbins, G. 37, *Grosvenor-place, Bath*
 Rodbard, John, *Aldwick Court*
 Roblyn, T. M.D. (*deceased*)
 Rogers, G. *Bishops Hull*
- 335 Rooke, Mrs. S. *Weston-super-Mare*
 Rowe, J. K. *Taunton*
 Rowley, Rev. W. W. *Weston-super-Mare*
 Routledge, Rev. W. D.D. *Bishops Hull*
 Rowcliffe, Charles, *Stogumber*
- 340 Rundell, E. W. *West Monkton*
- Sabine, Rev. Williams, *Rectory, Brympton*
 Sanford, E. A. *Nynchead Court*
 Sanford, W. A. „ „
- 345 Scarth, Rev. H. M. *Bathwick, Bath*
 Schuldam, Mrs. E. *Norton Fitzwarren*
 Scott, Rev. J. P. *Staplegrove*
 Sealy, John, *Bridgwater*
 Sealy, H. N. *Nether Stowey*
 *Seymour, H. D. M.P., *Knoyle, Wilts*
- 350 Shaw, Rev. W. H. E. D. *Fiddington*
 Sheppard, A. B. 18, *Lincolns-Inn-Fields, London*
 Sheppard, J. *Frome*
 Sheppard, W. B. *Keyford House, Frome*
 Sheppard, F. J. *Wells*
- 355 Sheppard, S. B. *Selwood, Frome*
 Shipton, Rev. J. N. D.D. *Othery*
 Shore, J. *Whatley, near Frome*
 Shout, R. H. *Yeovil*
 Shute, H. *Cary Fitzpaine*

- 360 Symons, William, *Dunster*
 Skinner, George, *Belmont, Bath*
 Slade, Wyndham, *Munty's Court, Taunton*
 Smith, N. *Clifton*
 Smith, Rev. C. *Bishops Lydeard*
- 365 Soden, J. sen. *Bath*
 Solly, Miss L. "
 Sotheby, Rev. T. H. *Milverton*
 Sparks, W. *Crewkerne*
 Speke, Mrs. *Roeford Lodge*
- 370 Speke, W. *Jordans, near Ilminster*
 Spencer, Rev. J. W. *Wilton*
 Sperrin, J. *Weston-super-Mare*
 Spicer, R. W. *Chard*
 Squire, F. *Pall-mall, London*
- 375 Steinthal, Rev. S. A. *Bridgwater*
 Stephenson, Rev. J. *Lympsham*
 Stuart, Rev. T. B. *Wookey*
 Stone, W. H. *Taunton*
 Stradling, W. *Chilton-super-Polden*
- 380 Street, Rev. H. *Bath*
 Sully, T. *Bridgwater*
 Surtees, W. Edward, *Tainfield*
 Sweet, Rev. C. *Sampford Arundel*
 Sweet, H. *Taunton*
- 385 Sydenham, A. C. M.D. *Yeovil*
 Symes, Rev. R. *Cleeve, Bristol*
- Thompson, Charles, *Bridgwater*
 Tinling, Rev. E. D. 30, *Crescent, Bath*
 Todd, Lieut.-Col. *Taunton*
- 390 Tomkins, C. M.D. *Weston-super-Mare*
 Tomkins, H. G. "
 Traherne, Rev. J. M. *Coedriglan, Cardiff*
 Trenchard, H. C. *Taunton*
 Trevelyan, Sir W. C. Bart. *Nettlecombe Court, and*
Wallington, Northumberland
- 395 Trevelyan, Lady "
 Trevelyan, Sir C. E. *Treasury, London* " "
 Trevelyan, Rev. E. O. *Stogumber*
 Trevelyan, Rev. W. P. *Enmore Castle*
 Trevelyan, Arthur, *Tynholm, Trancet, N.B.*

- 400 Trevelyan, Miss, *Nettlecombe Court*
 Tripp, Rev. John, *Carhampton*
 Trudell, James, *Taunton*
 Truscott, Francis, „
 Tucker, Rev. H. T. *Leigh Court*
- 405 Tucker, Robert
 Tudway, R. C. *Wells (deceased)*
 Turle, H. *Taunton*
 Turner, Rev. W. H. *Trent*
 Turner, A. *Staplegrove*
- 410 Turner, C. J.
 Turner, Rev. W. H. *Banwell*
 Tunstall, Dr. 35, *Brock-street, Bath*
 *Tynte, Col. C. K. K. *Halswell House*
 Tynte, Col. C. J. K. M.P. *Cefn Mabley, Glamorganshire*
- 415 Tynte, Capt. K. *Leversdown House*
 Tyrconnel, Earl, *Evercreech*
- Uttermare, T. B. *Langport*
- Vane, Rev. J. *Burrington, Wrington*
 Vibart, James, *Chilliswood*
- 420 Vining, Charles, *Yeovil*
 Voules, Rev. T. A. *Beer Crocombe*
- Walker, L. 13, *King's Road, Gray's Inn, London*
 Walter, W. *Oldbury Lodge*
 Walter, R. *Stoke-sub-Hamdon*
- 425 Walters, G. *Frome*
 Ward, Rev. J. W. *Tickenham, near Bristol*
 Warre, Rev. F. *Bishops Lydeard*
 Warre, Miss „
 Warren, J. F. H. *Langport*
- 430 Warren, Rev. J. *Bawdrip*
 Webber, Rev. E. A. *Runnington*
 Welman, C. N. *Norton Manor*
 Welsh, W. I. *Wells*
 West, G. *Corfe*
- 435 Weston, Plowden C. J. *South Carolina, United States*
 White, F. *Wellington*
 White, F. G. *Taunton*
 Whitehead, Rev. E. *Saltford, Bath*

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